SOLD MOVES: Tips on buying a house or condo in a confusing market | **Inside**

express

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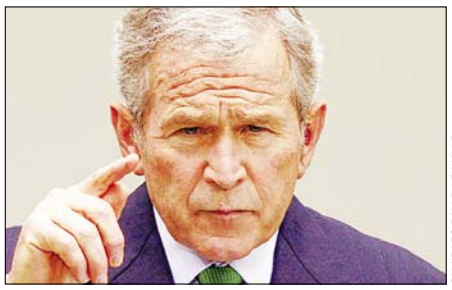
Wednesday



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Bush criticized Democratic lawmakers.

Placing Blame: Bush faults Congress for economic woes | 3

At Risk? Judge orders ruling on the status of polar bears | 4

Foul Language: Wizards, Cavaliers talk tough about hard hits | 14

ENTERTAINMENT

Nostalgia: *Tom Petty* gets his old band back together after 33 years. Also, a Norwegian novel and a political punk band with soul.

>> 21-25

Virginians Survey Tornadoes' Devastation

LINDA DAVIDSON/TWP

AFTERMATH: Kenny Gucwa looks at what's left of his mother's china in her modular home in Suffolk, Va., on Tuesday, a day after six tornadoes ripped across southeastern Virginia, overturning vehicles, demolishing houses and injuring as many as 200 people. ✤ **Amazed:** Rescuers stunned that no one died | **Page II**

Obama Denounces Ex-Pastor

Democratic front-runner 'outraged' by Wright's remarks

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. | Barack Obama angrily denounced his former pastor for "divisive and destructive" remarks on race, seeking to divorce himself from the incendiary speaker and a fury that threatens to engulf his front-running Democratic presidential campaign.

Obama is trying to tamp down the uproar over the Rev. Jeremiah Wright at a tough time in his campaign. The Illinois senator is coming off a loss in Pennsylvania to rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and trying to win over white working-class voters in Indiana and North Carolina in next Tuesday's primaries.

"I am outraged by the comments that were made and saddened over the spectacle that we saw yesterday," Obama said Tuesday.

His strong words come just six weeks after Obama delivered a sweeping speech on race in which he sharply condemned Wright's remarks but did not leave the church or repudiate the minister himself. After weeks of staying out of the public eye while critics lambasted his sermons, the former pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago made three public appearances in four days to defend himself.

On Monday, Wright criticized the U.S. government as imperialist and stood by his suggestion that the United States invented the AIDS virus as a means of genocide against minorities. And perhaps even worse for Obama, Wright suggested that Obama secretly concurs.

Obama stated flatly that he doesn't share the views of the man who officiated at his wedding, baptized his two daughters and had been his pastor for 20 years. MIKE GLOVER (AP)

pollcenter SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT SUSPEND GAS TAXES FOR THE SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON? (A) YES (B) NO

WEDNESDAY 64|48 | THURSDAY 71|57 | FRIDAY 77|60

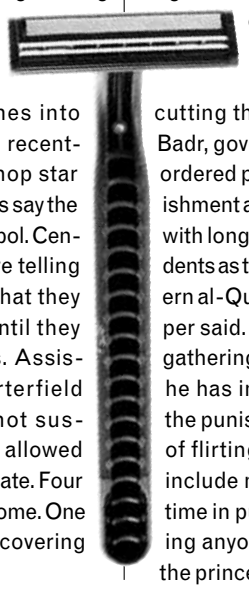
TODAY: Partly sunny and cool with thunderstorms developing late | 34

eyeOpeners

GROOMING

Vicious Gangs Often Gave Browbeatings

A Portland, Ore., high school is raising eyebrows with its brow-grooming policy: Shave them or go home. Some students at Centennial High School have shaved vertical lines into their eyebrows in a trend recently made popular by hip-hop star Soulja Boy. School officials say the mark looks like a gang symbol. Centennial administrators are telling students with the lines that they can't return to school until they shave off their eyebrows. Assistant Principal Mark Porterfield said the students are not suspended, but they are not allowed in school until they cooperate. Four students have been sent home. One returned with a bandage covering the shaved brow. (AP)



MORE GROOMING

Scientists Link Flirtatiousness With Hair Length

A governor in Saudi Arabia has ordered authorities to punish men who flirt with women in public places by cutting their hair. Prince Fahd bin Badr, governor of the al-Jof region, ordered police to carry out the punishment after seeing a group of men with long hair pestering female students as they left school in the northern al-Qurayat province, a newspaper said. It said the prince said at a gathering at his palace on Sunday he has instructed police to apply the punishment to all youths guilty of flirting. "The decision doesn't include men who spend their free time in public places without hurting anyone," a newspaper quoted the prince as saying. (AP)

NEW ZEALAND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT/AP

MONSTERS

Shock And Thaw

Marine scientists in New Zealand on Tuesday were thawing the corpse of the largest squid ever caught to try to unlock its secrets. No one has ever seen a living, grown colossal squid in its natural deep-ocean habitat, and scientists hope their examination of the 1,089-pound, 26-foot-long beast, set to begin Wednesday, will help determine how the creatures live. The thawing and examination are being broadcast live by the Museum of New Zealand (Tepapa.govt.nz). (AP)

CRIME

Ulf of Planet Zarg Jailed for Joyriding

Pikesville, Md., police say they've made an arrest in connection with the deafening blasts and blinding split-second flashes of light that have been rattling residents of one neighborhood for months. The police department set up cameras and recorded the phenomena last week. Based on shadows, police believe the light source was in the air about 30 feet above the ground near a school. Baltimore County Police spokesman Cpl. Mike Hill confirmed the arrest, but could provide no other details Tuesday. (AP)

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BE LIKE MIKE: Billionaire and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is sharing what he has learned in business and government in a book due out later this year, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. He will donate all royalties to the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation.

Nation

In Brief

BRECKENRIDGE, COLO.

Dog Found Alive After 8 Days in Building Rubble

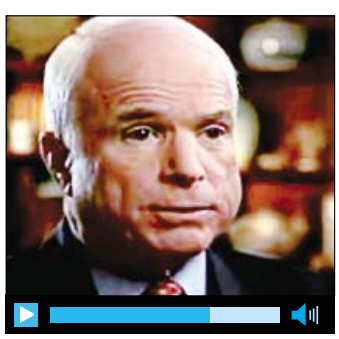
A dog was found alive and in relatively good shape after spending eight days trapped in the rubble of a building that exploded, critically injuring the pup's owner. Lulu, a springer spaniel, was rescued Sunday after the owner of the business that had been housed in the two-story building heard her whimpering. Lulu's owner, Brian Mislanski, had been critically injured in the April 19 explosion and remained at St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver on Tuesday. (AP)

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

Sect Member Gives Birth While Police Stand Guard

One of the hundreds of young polygamist-sect members taken into custody by the state was giving birth Tuesday while child welfare officials, state troopers and fellow sect members stood watch outside the maternity ward. The teenager was admitted to the Central Texas Medical Center, said Rod Parker, a spokesman for the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Parker says the girl is 18, but state officials have the girl on a list of minors taken into state custody. (AP)

AdWatch



Let's give every American family a $5,000 refundable tax credit so that they can go out across state lines and get the insurance policy that suits them best."

—**JOHN MCCAIN**, IN A NEW CAMPAIGN AD OUTLINING HIS HEALTH CARE POSITIONS.

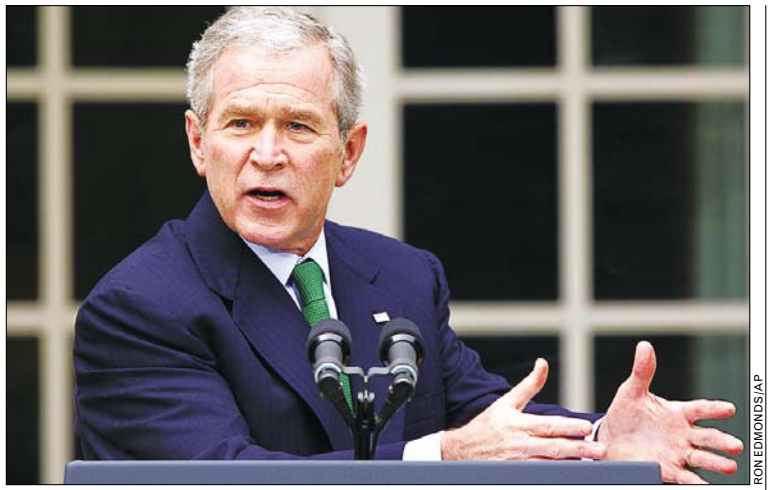
Bush Scolds Congress on Economy

Legislators are 'letting the American people down,' president says

WASHINGTON | President Bush, hoping to inoculate his party and his presidential legacy from election-year anger over the economy, heaped criticism on the Democratic-led Congress on Tuesday for "letting the American people down."

He said he'd consider a summer suspension of federal gasoline taxes. But he offered no new ideas for a range of economic worries now facing the country, from record gas prices and soaring food costs to rising inflation, layoffs and home foreclosures.

Instead, the president tried to shift the focus to Congress, saying he long ago sent lawmakers proposals to deal with many of the nation's economic problems, only to see them sit or be replaced with approaches that he deems unacceptable.



RON EDMONDS/AP

President Bush says lawmakers on Capitol Hill are blocking his proposals to deal with the nation's economic problems, a charge Democratic leaders have denied.

"Many Americans are understandably anxious about issues affecting their pocketbook," Bush said. "They're looking to their elected leaders in Congress for action. Unfortunately, on many of these issues, all they're getting is delay."

Capitol Hill's Democratic leaders said Bush was to blame for proposing policies that would worsen the problem, not help, and that it was their duty to reject them.

"His call this morning for Congress to act is disingenuous at best," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The economy is shaping up to be the defining issue when voters go to the polls in November, and the president may be trying to keep the GOP from becoming the punching bag that winds up on the losing end.

JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

JIM MAHONEY/AP

James Lee Woodard, center, celebrates outside the 26th District Court in Dallas after being exonerated of a murder charge.

Man Cleared After 27 Years in Prison

DNA evidence proves man did not kill his girlfriend in Dallas

DALLAS | A Dallas man who spent more than 27 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit was freed Tuesday, after being incarcerated longer than any other wrongfully convicted U.S. inmate cleared by DNA testing

James Lee Woodard stepped out of the courtroom and raised his arms to a throng of photographers.

"No words can express what a tragic story yours is," state District Judge Mark Stoltz told Woodard at a brief hearing before his release.

Woodard, cleared of the 1980 murder of his girlfriend, became the 18th person in Dallas County to have his conviction cast aside. That's a figure unmatched by any county nationally, according to the Innocence Project, a New York-based legal center that specializes in overturning wrongful convictions.

"I thank God for the existence of the Innocence Project," Woodard, 55, told the court. "Without that, I wouldn't be here today. I would be wasting away in prison."

Overall, 31 people have been formally exonerated through DNA testing in Texas. SCHUYLER DIXON (AP)

Test Confirms Man Was Killed By Great White

SAN DIEGO | A shark expert says an autopsy has confirmed a great white shark killed a triathlete in the waters off San Diego County last week.

Martin

An investigator from the Medical Examiner's Office says two shark tooth fragments were recovered from David Martin's body.

Los Angeles-area shark expert Ralph Collier assisted with the autopsy. He said Monday the fragments indicate the shark was a great white about 15 to 16 feet in length

Martin was bitten Friday morning while training for a triathlon. The 66-year-old quickly died from blood loss. (AP)

BY THE NUMBERS: About 44 percent of participants in a new survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation say paying for gasoline is a "serious problem" for them. (AP)

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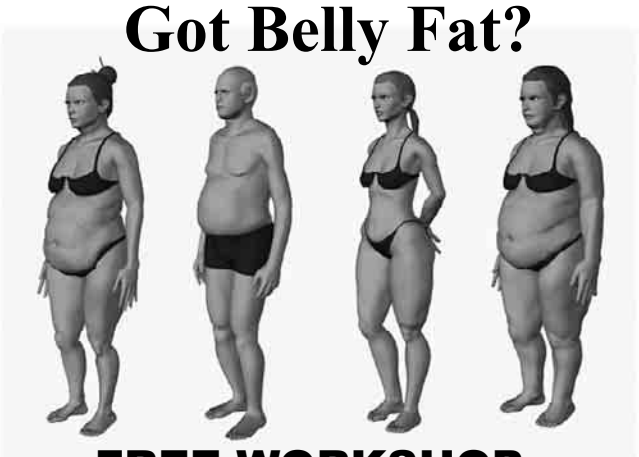

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Nation

21 | **The prison sentence, in months,** handed down Monday to a Colorado man accused of sending hundreds of thousands of spam e-mails on behalf of companies that paid him.

Polar Bear Deadline Is Set

Judge: Officials must decide whether to list species as threatened

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | A federal judge has ordered the Interior Department to decide within 16 days whether polar bears should be listed as a threatened species because of global warming.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken agreed with conservation groups that the department missed a Jan. 9 deadline for a decision. She rejected a government request for a further delay and ordered it to act by May 15.

"Defendants have been in violation of the law requiring them to publish the listing determination for nearly 120 days," the judge, based in Oakland, Calif., wrote in a decision issued late Monday. "Other than the general complexity of finalizing the rule, Defendants offer no specific facts that would justify the delay, much less further delay."

JONATHAN HAYWARD/AP

Conservation groups are pushing the government to protect polar bears.

A spokesman for the Interior Department said Tuesday the decision was being reviewed.

The ruling is a victory for conservation groups that claim the Bush administration has delayed a polar bear decision to avoid addressing global warming and to avoid roadblocks to development such as the transfer of offshore petroleum leases in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast to oil company bidders.

A decision to list polar bears due to global warming could trigger a recovery plan with consequences beyond Alaska. Opponents fear it would subject new power plants and other development projects to federal review if they generate greenhouse gasses that add to warming in the Arctic. DAN JOLING (AP)

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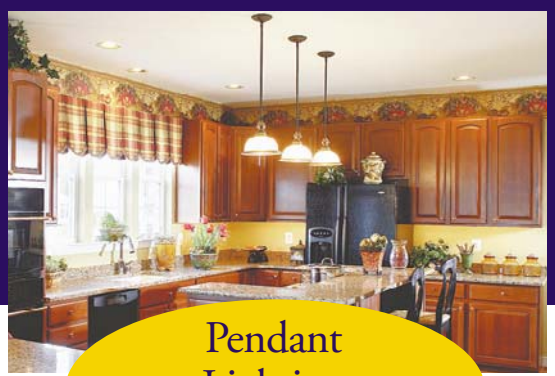

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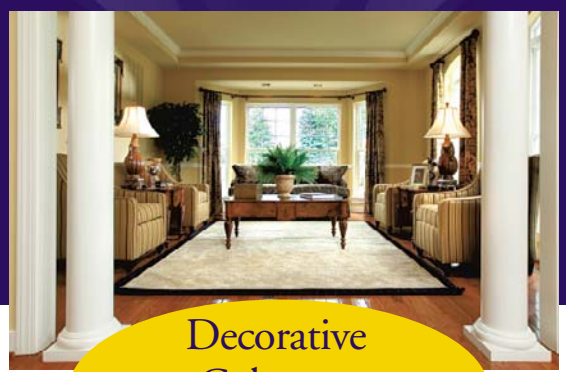

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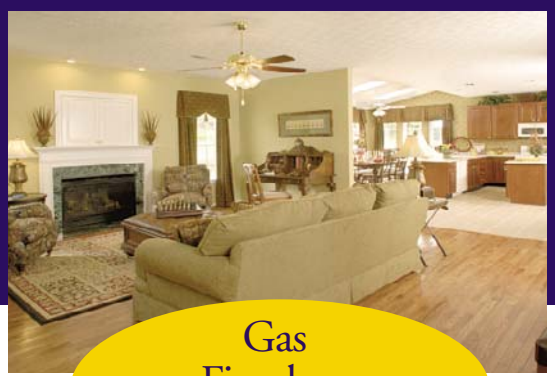

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West Virginia—Welcome to the Mountains

Berkeley County

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Single-family homes from the $220's. These large homesites are located in the Hedgesville School District and close to I-81. **Final phase now selling!**

To Visit: I-81 to WV exit 14 (Dry Run Rd). Proceed west for 1.2 miles. Right onto Braeburn Dr. to Sales Center on the right. **Open Mon 2pm - 6pm, Tues 11am - 6pm, Fri – Sun 11am - 6pm. Call 304-267-8382.**

Chandler's Glen in Bunker Hill **$15***

Single-family homes from the $220's located 10 miles north of Winchester. **Great savings with pre-construction prices!**

To Visit: Rt. 70W to I-81S to exit 323 (Rest Church Rd). Go approximately 1 block (over Rt. 81) and turn left onto Martinsburg Pike (Rt. 11). Turn right onto Specks Run Rd (Rt. 28). Community is 1 mile down on the left. **Call 304-229-1801.**

Princeton Shoals in Martinsburg **$15***

Spacious single-family homes in a quiet setting from the $190's. Choose from a 2-story or Ranch home with full unfinished basements. Only minutes from I-81 and the MARC train.

To Visit: I-70W to I-81S. Take exit 16E to Queen Street (Rte. 9), continue straight to 4th stoplight. Make a left at the 4th light onto Eagle School Road. Turn left onto Princeton Street. Turn right onto Lynch Lane. Model is directly ahead. **Open Mon 2pm - 6pm, Tues 11am - 6pm, Fri – Sun 11am - 6pm. Call 304-262-4546.**

Jefferson County

Shenandoah Springs in Ranson **$15***

Single-family homes from the mid $200's in a private country setting. Enjoy nearby shopping, dining, and entertainment.

To Visit: 340S to Rte. 9W. Take the Flowing Springs Rd. exit and community is directly ahead. **Call 304-724-1196.**

Sussex County, Delaware—Welcome to the Beach

Eagle Point in Lewes **$15***

Two-level, 2-car garage carriage homes from the upper $200's with first-floor owner's suite. Moments from the Delaware beaches. Community offers clubhouse and pool.

To Visit: Rte. 1S. Proceed through stoplight for Rte. 9/404 in Lewes. Right on Shady Rd. by Grotto's Pizza. Community entrance is on the left. Model is on the right. **Call 1-800-504-1871 or 302-645-9338.**

Stonewater Creek in Millsboro **$15***

Single-family homes from the upper $200's featuring community clubhouse, pool and tennis courts. Tax-free shopping, fine dining, Delaware beaches, and championship golf courses are located nearby.

To Visit: Take Rte. 1 to Rte. 24 W. Right onto Rte. 5 N. and proceed 2 miles to the community on the right. **Call 302-945-9024 or 1-888-899-7101.**

The Villages of Five Points in Lewes **$15***

Single-family homes from the upper $300's. Everything you need from shopping, playing fields, tennis courts, a clubhouse, and a pool. Less than 3 miles from the beach. **Final phase now selling!**

To Visit: Rte. 1S and left onto Savannah Rd. at Five Points intersection (Rte. 9 and Savannah Rd.). At the next stoplight community will be on the left. **Call 302-644-4702 or 1-866-523-0362.**

Plantation Lakes in Millsboro **$15***

Single-family homes with lower levels from the upper $200's. Located minutes from the beach, this community offers an 18-hole golf course, swimming pools, and a Town Center with plenty of shopping and entertainment.

To Visit: Rte. 113S from Georgetown. Right onto Rte. 24W. Proceed 1 mile to the community entrance on the right. **Call 302-933-0684.**

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Nation

HARD TIMES: Staying healthy and happy is a struggle for about half of Americans, a new survey finds. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index finds that 47 percent of Americans feel they are struggling in life, while 4 percent feel they are suffering.

Immigration Advocates Soldier On

Activists hope to raise profile of issue with nationwide rallies

CHICAGO | Immigration activists and civil rights leaders are gearing up for rallies and marches in cities across the nation, hoping to revive the stagnant immigration debate in time for the presidential election.

Activists predict turnout for the more than 200 events planned Thursday from Seattle to Miami will be far less than in years past. But they say efforts demanding comprehensive immigration legislation — including pathways to citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. — have extended beyond the streets.

PAUL BEATY/AP

Maria Pizarro, left, and Melissa Flores prepare a sign for an immigration rights rally May 1 in Chicago. Protests and rallies are planned across the country on that day.

"While the breadth of activities will be significant, most eyes are turned toward the November election," said Rich Stolz, a coordinator with Fair Immigration Reform Movement, which oversees activist groups across the country. "We've been calling on the candidates to prioritize immigration."

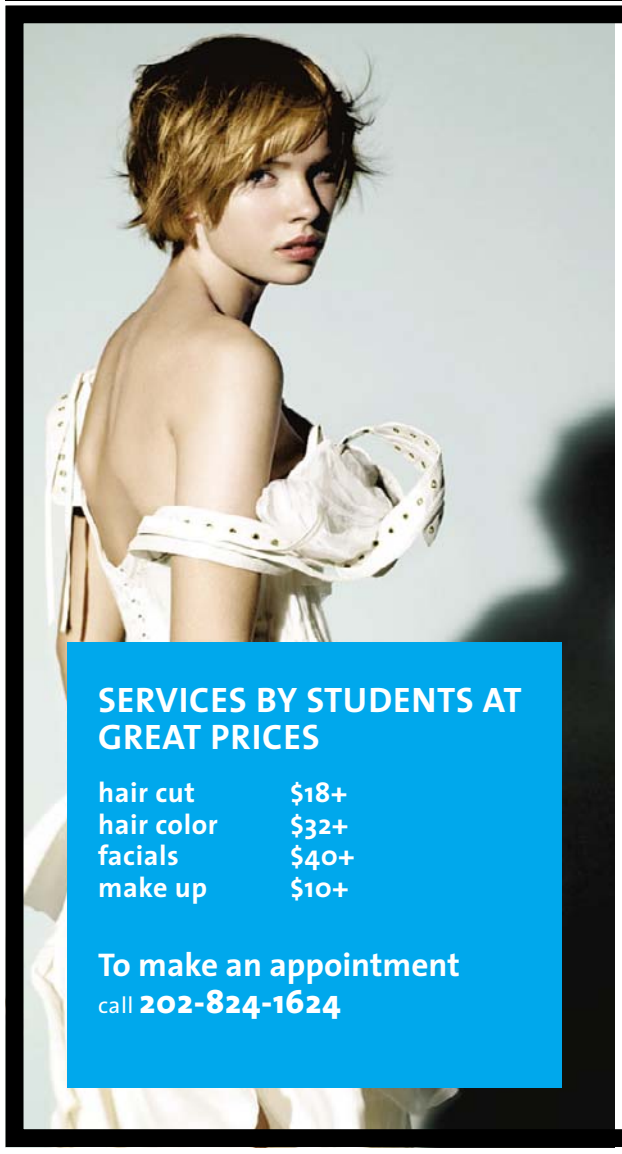
The scope of the immigrant rights movement has shifted greatly in two years.

The scope of the immigrant rights movement has seen significant changes in just two years . More than 1 million people nationwide marched in the name of immigrant rights in 2006. Fueled by a blitz of coverage in churches and Spanish language media, many united to fight a bill that proposed making it a felony for all illegal immigrants to live in the United States.

With no single piece of legislation to rally around in 2007, numbers shrank and the message branched off.

Immigration reform hasn't resonated with voters in primary elections who overwhelmingly list the economy as their top concern. Immigration legislation has stalled and been defeated in the Senate. Presidential candidates have not extensively addressed the contentious issue.

"Folks are staying away from the immigration debate; it's a touchy subject," said Luis Gutierrez, executive director of Chicago-based Latinos Progresando. "Some don't want to talk about it, unless it's 'build a fence.'" SOPHIA TAREEN (AP)



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PUBLISHING PUSH: Historians want Adolf Hitler's infamous manifesto, "Mein Kampf," to be republished in Germany before its copyright lapses in 2015. Though the book is available in the English-speaking world, its publication has been banned in Germany since World War II.

World

In Brief

GUILLERMO ARIAS/AP

A police officer guards the emergency entrance of a hospital in Tijuana.

TIJUANA, MEXICO

Hospital in Virtual Lockdown As Drug Traffickers Treated

Soldiers held Tijuana's main hospital in a virtual lockdown Tuesday as doctors treated eight drug traffickers wounded in running shootouts in this border city. The latest bout of violence in Mexico's most violent city exploded Saturday, with rival gang members killing each other in simultaneous, pre-dawn attacks that left at least 13 dead. (AP)

AMSTETTEN, AUSTRIA

Captive Family Unites; DNA Confirms Incest Cases

Members of an Austrian family terrorized by decades of incest and imprisonment met for the first time at a clinic where psychiatrists are helping them recover, authorities said Tuesday. Details of the emotional gathering emerged as police said DNA tests confirmed Josef Fritzl is the biological father of his daughter's six living children. Fritzl confessed Monday to imprisoning his daughter Elisabeth for 24 years in soundproofed cellar rooms, fathering seven children with her and discarding the body of one. (AP)

JERUSALEM

Israeli Military Leader Warns Of Attack During Anniversary

The commander of Israeli military intelligence warned Tuesday that Palestinian militants will try to stage a large-scale attack on Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations next month. "There are attempts to carry out a 'quality' attack of either kidnapping Israeli civilians or a major bombing" during the celebrations, Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin was quoted as saying in a text released by the prime minister's office. (AP)

Street Battles Intensify in Baghdad

28 militiamen killed after ambush on U.S. patrol in Sadr City

BAGHDAD | Dozens of fighters ambushed a U.S. patrol in Baghdad's main Shiite militia stronghold Tuesday, firing rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun bursts as the American push into Sadr City increasingly faces pockets of close urban combat.

U.S. forces struck back with 200-pound guided rockets that devastated at least three buildings in the densely packed district that serves as the Baghdad base for the powerful Mahdi Army militia.

The U.S. military said 28 militiamen were killed as the U.S. patrol pulled back. Local hospital officials said dozens of civilians were killed or wounded.

Such street battles — in tight confines and amid frightened civilians — are increasingly becoming a hallmark of the drive into Sadr City and recall the type of head-on clashes last seen in large numbers during last year's U.S. troop buildup in Baghdad and nearby areas.

U.S. troops have often fought intense gunbattles as they cleared neighborhoods in Baghdad and former Sunni insurgent havens such as Anbar and Diyala provinces. But roadside bombings and rocket or mortar volleys against bases have been the more frequent mode of attack in recent years.

Clashes have intensified in Sadr City since the Mahdi Army leader — the anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr — reiterated his threat of an all-out war against U.S.-led forces last week. U.S. troops, meanwhile, find themselves increasingly drawn into the fight opened by the Iraqi government to cripple the power of Shiite militias.

"We are seeing larger groups of militants actually aggressively attacking Iraqi and U.S. security forces," said Lt. Col. Steve Stover, a military spokesman for American troops in Baghdad. "We've seen more of the brazen attacks in the daytime recently." KIM GAMEL (AP)

AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An Iraqi man cries as he looks at the ruins of a house destroyed by a U.S. airstrike in Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday.

U.N. Creates Food Crisis Task Force

Secretary-general will lead efforts to raise $755M in funding

BERN, SWITZERLAND | The United Nations will establish a top-level task force to tackle food shortages and escalating prices that threaten to touch off a "cascade of related crises" around the world, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Tuesday.

Ban, who will lead the task force, said the group agreed on a series of measures for the medium and long term, with its first priority to meet the $755 million shortfall in funding for the World Food Program.

"Without full funding of these emergency requirements, we risk again the specter of widespread hunger, malnutrition and social unrest on an unprecedented scale," he told reporters in the Swiss capital, where the U.N. agency chiefs have been meeting. Even if the shortfall is met, more money will likely be needed, he said.

PETER SCHNEIDER/KEYSTONE/AP

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon discussed the food crisis on Tuesday.

Later, in a speech at the U.N.'s European headquarters in Geneva, Ban said high food prices "could touch off a cascade of related crises — affecting trade, economic growth, social progress and even political security around the world."

The price increases have been dramatic, he said. "The price of rice in particular has gone from $400 a ton some weeks ago to more than $1,000 today."

Ban blamed the escalating prices on a range of factors, including "the new craze of biofuels derived from food products." ELIANE ENGELER (AP)

Worldwide hunger: For more news about the global food crisis, including photos, videos and discussions, visit **washingtonpost.com/world.**

Zimbabwe Police Free Nearly 200

HARARE, ZIMBABWE | Police on Tuesday released nearly 200 people who were arrested last week in a raid at opposition headquarters, while President Bush called on Zimbabwe's neighbors to step up the pressure on longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

Many of the 215 people arrested on Friday had fled to Harare to escape mounting violence and intimidation in rural areas that used to be ruling party strongholds, but turned against Mugabe in the March 29 elections.

Twenty-nine people, mainly women and children, were released almost immediately. The rest were freed from various police stations in the capital Tuesday. (AP)

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99 | **The number of days before the start of the Olympics** in Beijing. China plans to celebrate the remaining days with a mini-marathon around Olympic venues on Wednesday.

World

China Jails 30 Over Riots

6 Buddhist monks are among those ordered to serve 3 years to life

BEIJING | Six Buddhist monks were among 30 people sentenced by a Chinese court Tuesday to jail terms ranging from three years to life for taking part in deadly riots in Tibet.

The punishments were the first to be meted out by a Chinese court against Tibetans accused of taking part in a frenzy of assaults, burning, looting and vandalism, mainly targeting Han Chinese and their businesses in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and nearby areas, between March 14 and 16.

The violence and subsequent government crackdown drew worldwide attention to China's human rights record and its rule in Tibet ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

The sentences were announced during two sessions of a one-day trial at the Intermediate People's Court of Lhasa, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. China Central Television showed the convicts being led out by police in front of a packed courtroom.

XINHUA/CHOGO/AP

People accused of participating in deadly riots in Tibet in March stand during a trial at the Intermediate People's Court of Lhasa, in Lhasa, Tibet, on Tuesday.

Xinhua said three men received life sentences, including a Buddhist monk identified as Basang who allegedly led 10 people, including five other monks, to destroy local government offices, burn down shops and attack policemen.

Two of Basang's alleged monk accomplices were sentenced to 20 years in jail and the other three to 15 years in jail.

Soi'nam Cering, a driver for a Lhasa real estate company, was sentenced to life in jail for joining in the mobs that smashed police stations and assaulted firefighters during the riot, Xinhua said. HENRY SANDERSON (AP)

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Genesio "Junior" Oliveira and Tim Coco on their wedding day in 2005.

President Bush, Members of Congress:
Make this right!

Tim Coco and Genesio "Junior" Oliveira were legally married March 3, 2005 in Massachusetts. However, the couple has been separated — Junior in Brazil and Tim in the United States — for nine months because of the inhumane, discriminatory and mean-spirited federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The U.S. ignores the pain, financial hardship and turmoil the separation has caused for this committed, loving and responsible couple and others like them.

Unless the couple receives relief soon, they will file suit in Federal courts, challenging the portion of DOMA that prevents federal recognition of their marriage. *The Executive Branch has the authority to grant Junior a visa now, and Congress has the power to grant relief by any number of means.* Let's avoid a showdown on the eve of the presidential election by acting to **Reunite this Family** now!

"Great strides toward equality for gays have been made in this country, but the woeful fate of Tim Coco and Genesio Oliveira shows that thousands of same-sex couples, even in Massachusetts, still aren't really full citizens."
— *Boston Globe*, Aug. 27, 2007

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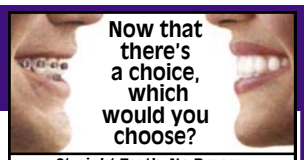

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Left and center photos by D. A. Peterson.
Right: Student installing *Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life 1990–2005*, photo by Susan Sterner.

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World

Marines Storm Afghanistan Town

NATO seeks to stretch its presence into area where Taliban is strong

OUTSIDE GARMSER, AFGHANISTAN | Marines stormed into a Taliban-held town before daybreak Tuesday, trading gunfire with insurgents on the ground and using helicopter gunships to destroy a militant compound in one of Afghanistan's most violent regions.

Several hundred Marines, many of whom have fought in Iraq, reportedly met light resistance in the assault, which is the farthest south in years that American troops have operated in Helmand province.

The goal is to stretch NATO's presence into an area where illegal opium poppy fields are plentiful and the Taliban is strong. British troops man a small base on Garmser's northern edge, but insurgents rule the countryside south of the outpost all the way to the Pakistan border.

No Marines suffered injuries, said their commander, Maj. Tom Clinton Jr. There was no immediate word on whether any insurgents were killed or wounded.

An 11-year-old Afghan boy suffered a chest wound from the explosion of a rocket that insurgents apparently fired at Marines, Clinton said. The boy was flown to a British base for surgery. His condition wasn't immediately known.

> "We haven't seen anybody who isn't carrying a gun."
>
> MAJ. TOM CLINTON JR., MARINES

"We haven't seen anybody who isn't carrying a gun," Clinton said of the mostly deserted town. "They're trying to figure out what we're doing. They're shooting at us, letting us know they're there."

The assault on Garmser was the first major task undertaken by the 2,300 Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which arrived in April from Camp Lejeune, N.C., for a seven-month deployment.

JASON STRAZIUSO (AP)

BERLIN | LITTLE AND BIG HORNS

MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

BABY STEPS: Indian rhinoceros Betty and her baby walk in an enclosure at a zoo in Berlin on Tuesday. The unnamed rhino was born on Sunday.

8 | **The number of soldiers, in thousands,** who will be in the Virginia Army National Guard at the end of April. More recruiters and incentive programs have led to the Virginia Army National Guard's highest troop levels in 14 years, officials said.

Local

In Brief

RICHMOND, VA.

Kaine Cites Regional Gas Tax Increase Precedent

Gov. Tim Kaine says opponents of a gas tax increase should remember that there's already a recent precedent for such action by the General Assembly. Kaine plans to call a special session in June to deal with the state's transportation problems. He said Tuesday on his monthly show on Washington radio station WTOP that all possible solutions are on the table. The House Republican majority opposes a statewide gas tax increase. But Kaine said a transportation package passed last year and later ruled unconstitutional included an increase in Hampton Roads, setting a precedent for at least a regional increase. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Man Found With Shotgun Near Capitol Goes on Trial

A man who was arrested near the U.S. Capitol with a loaded shotgun and is accused of planning to set off a bomb is defending himself in D.C. Superior Court. The trial for 38-year-old Michael Gorbey of Rapidan, Va., began Tuesday. He was arrested in January for carrying a loaded shotgun and a sword outside the Capitol. The incident caused hours of gridlock. U.S. Capitol Police later discovered an explosive device in Gorbey's truck. It had gone undetected for three weeks. (AP)

Gorbey

WASHINGTON

Two People Shot At D.C. Vocational School

D. C. police say two people have been shot at a vocational school in Northeast Washington. Police say a student shot a male student in the face at the Excel Institute on Tuesday afternoon, then went outside and shot at a group of students, hitting a woman in the shoulder. Officials say the victims' injuries do not appear to be life-threatening. Police say the gunman carjacked two vehicles as he fled the scene. (AP)

6 Tornadoes Destroy Homes in Va.

200 injured; rescuers amazed the twisters caused no deaths

SUFFOLK, VA. | It was a scene of haphazard destruction that stretched for 25 miles: row upon row of homes reduced to sprays of splintered lumber, shopping centers stripped to bare metal, parking lots turned into junk yards.

And yet no one died.

"The only thing I can say is we were watched over and blessed," Fire Chief Mark Outlaw said Tuesday.

As shaken residents and rescuers returned Tuesday to survey what's left, they were amazed by both the scope of the damage and their good fortune. Even among the 200 people who were injured, most suffered only cuts and scrapes.

Authorities said people in the tornado's path had plenty of warning and were fortunate that the twister struck in the late afternoon, rather than at night, when most residents would have been sleeping.

The extra few minutes provided enough time for people in the storm's path to huddle in bathrooms or crouch in the back of stores as the strongest of six twisters zigzagged for 25 miles across central and southeast Virginia.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who declared a state of emergency in the hardest-hit areas, said about 145 homes were severely damaged in Suffolk, a city of 80,000 people west of Norfolk. SONJA BARISIC (AP)

HARAZ N. GHANBARI/AP

A damaged BMW is surrounded by piles of debris on Tuesday in Suffolk, Va. Six tornadoes destroyed buildings and injured more than 200 people there Monday.

TWISTERS OF THE PAST

Monday's tornados were not the worst in Virginia's history:

- In August 1993, there were a record 18 tornadoes during four hours in one day. Four people were killed and 259 were injured.
- The deadliest occurred in May 1929, when 22 people were killed and more than 150 injured in one day in western Virginia.

Capital Area Food Bank to Get New Digs

Local philanthropists raise $28.7M for new Northeast D.C. facility

Some of the Washington area's leading philanthropists announced Tuesday they have raised $28.7 million to build a new facility for the Capital Area Food Bank.

The food bank serves as the region's primary distribution center, providing food to about 700 agencies and soup kitchens. Amid a downturn in the economy, officials said demand for free or discounted food has been rising in the District and suburban communities.

The new facility will allow the food bank to double its capacity with a huge food storage warehouse, expanded refrigeration space for fresh produce and a commercial kitchen that can be used to prepare hot meals.

Construction is expected to begin this summer on the new facility, which will sit on eight acres in Northeast Washington, and food bank leaders said they hope to raise more money to meet their goal of $36 million.

It was announced Tuesday that J.W. Marriott Jr., chairman and chief executive of Marriott International Inc., donated an additional $1 million, bringing his total gift to more than $3 million. A volunteer center at the new facility will carry Marriott's name. He said that food is at "the center of everything we do" and that he is passionate about eliminating hunger. PHILIP RUCKER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

KEVIN CLARK/TWP

The current Capital Area Food Bank warehouse is located in Lorton, Va.

Suit Claims Profiling At Georgetown Event

WASHINGTON | An Iranian-American graduate student at Georgetown University sued the school Tuesday, saying security officers engaged in racial profiling when they detained him at a university graduation ceremony last year.

Kambiz Fattahi, 30, said in the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court that two Georgetown security guards interrogated him for a half-hour during the May 18, 2007, ceremony in a gym on the school's Washington campus.

The officers allegedly told him his behavior, which included repeatedly opening his bag, was making other people nervous. The lawsuit claims the officers asked him about his national origin and searched his bag before letting him go.

Fattahi filed a complaint with the university's public safety division, but a subsequent university investigation concluded the officers had not acted improperly. (AP)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, April 29

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	0-1-5
Evening Lucky Numbers	5-2-9
Mid-day DC 4	1-9-7-7
Evening DC 4	9-6-9-6
Rolling Cash Five	17-21-24-30-32
Daily 6	2-9-27-31-35-39 Bonus: 4

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	6-3-1
Evening Pick 3	4-6-8
Mid-day Pick 4	9-4-3-7
Evening Pick 4	4-8-8-5
Match 5	3-15-25-31-39 Bonus: 5

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	5-1-0
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	2-5-0
Mid-day Pick 4	6-0-9-2
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	2-0-2-5
Mid-day Cash 5	2-12-17-27-32
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	1-2-7-18-29

Money

OVERDUE: The number of homes heading toward foreclosure keeps rising. Nationwide, 649,917 homes received at least one foreclosure-related filing in the first three months of the year, up 112 percent from the same period last year, RealtyTrac said Tuesday.

Consumer Confidence Down in the Doldrums

Index hits lowest level since period before the Iraq war in 2003

NEW YORK | From soaring gas prices to weaker job prospects, Americans are gloomier about the economy than they were just before the United States' invasion of Iraq. They're so anxious that fewer people say they are planning to take a vacation this y ear than in 30 years.

And those are worrying signs for the already deteriorating economy, since eroding consumer confidence foreshadows weaker spending.

A widely watched measure of sentiment dropped to a five-year low in April, the fourth straight month of declines. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 62.3 in April, down from a revised 65.9 last month and 76.4 in February.

27%

The percentage of people who said jobs were "hard to get" in the consumer confidence survey for April.

That leaves the index at its weakest point since March 2003.

"There isn't a lot for the consumers to be optimistic about," said Gary Thayer, senior economist at Wachovia Securities.

Economists closely watch sentiment readings, since consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity. ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
NwstAir n	9.36	+1.74	+22.8
LearCorp	31.50	+5.08	+19.2
CastleAM	31.64	+4.29	+15.7
DeltaAir n	8.24	+1.05	+14.6
VirginM n	3.71	+.43	+13.1

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Gildan s	24.93	-10.99	-30.6
GuarFncl n	8.43	-1.97	-18.9
Wabash	8.35	-1.65	-16.5
FDelMnt	33.61	-5.23	-13.5
Magnetek	3.30	-.50	-13.2

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
PyramidB	2.52	+.76	+43.1
AllegiantT	27.81	+7.01	+33.7
IndepFedl	7.05	+1.65	+30.6
TranS1 n	13.00	+2.33	+21.8
Iomai	2.35	+.09	+4.0

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
iBasis s	3.13	-.95	-23.3
LCA Vis	10.13	-2.42	-19.3
DigiIntl	8.38	-1.87	-18.2
ThStreet	7.90	-1.58	-16.7
DiscvLabs	2.44	-.46	-15.9

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.25	5.25
Fed Funds close	2.25	1.88
3-month disc	1.40	1.30
2-year	2.33	2.19
10-year	3.82	3.71
30-year	4.56	4.47

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5081	.5025	.5007
Canadian Dollar	1.0122	1.0119	1.1156
European Euro	.6425	.6392	.7330
Japanese Yen	104.17	105.26	119.65
Mexican Peso	10.5374	10.4712	10.9124
Taiwanese Dollar	30.40	30.40	33.30

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-39.81	+1.70	-5.43
-0.31	+0.07	-0.39
12831.94	2426.10	1390.94

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
CBS B	23.20	+.66	-14.9
ClearChCm	29.95	-.09	-13.2
Comcast	20.26	+.41	+11.0
Comc spcl	19.88	+.33	+9.7
DirecTV	25.54	+.32	+10.5
DishNetwk	30.88	-.32	-9.0
Disney	32.76	+.33	+1.5
McGrwH	41.31	+.92	-5.7
NewsCpA	17.70	+.08	-13.6
NewsCpB	18.23	+.10	-14.2
Omnicm s	47.82	...	+.6
ThomsonR	36.82	-.73	-9.6
TW Cable	27.62	+.73	+.1
TimeWarn	15.27	+.16	-7.5
ViacomB	38.84	+.27	-11.6

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Money

KAREN TAM/AP

Nancy Baughman, left, and her husband, Daren, display items that they will be selling on their online auction service, eBiz Auctions, from their Raleigh, N.C., home.

Americans Going On Selling Spree

Auction sites flooded with desperate pleas to potential buyers

NEW YORK | The for-sale listings on the online hub Craigslist come with plaintive notices, like the one from the teenager in Georgia who said her mother lost her job and pleaded, "Please buy anything you can to help out."

Or the seller in Milwaukee who wrote in one post of needing to pay bills — and put a diamond engagement ring up for bids to do it.

Struggling with mounting debt and rising prices and facing the toughest economic times since the early 1990s, Americans are selling prized possessions online and at flea markets at alarming rates.

To meet higher gas, food and prescription drug bills, they are selling off grandmothers' dishes and their own belongings. Some of the household purging has been extremely painful — families have been forced to part with heirlooms.

"This is not about downsizing. It's about needing gas money," said Nancy Baughman, founder of eBizAuctions, an online auction service she runs out of her garage in Raleigh, N.C.

At Craigslist, which has become a kind of online flea market for the world, the number of for-sale listings has soared 70 percent since last July. In March, the number of listings more than doubled to almost 15 million over the year-ago period.

Craigslist CEO Jeff Buckmaster said he was amazed at the desperate tone in some ads.

In Daleville, Ala., Ellona Bateman-Lee has turned to eBay and flea markets to empty her three-bedroom mobile home of DVDs, VCRs, stereos and televisions.

She said she needs the cash to help pay soaring food and utility bills and mounting health care expenses since her husband, Bob, suffered an electric shock on the job as a dump truck driver in 2006.

Among her most painful sales: her grandmother's teakettle, which she sold for $6.

"My grandmother raised me, so it hurt," she said. "We've had bouts here and there, but we always got by. This time it's different." (AP)

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Sports

GREAT SCOTT: New Orleans coach Byron Scott was voted NBA coach of the year by a wide margin following a regular season in which the Hornets won a franchise-record 56 games and earned their first playoff berth in four years.

PRESTON KERES/TWP

FACE-OFF: DeShawn Stevenson, left, and LeBron James nearly come to blows following Stevenson's hard foul in Sunday's game. The Cavs lead the playoff series, 3-1.

Wizards, Cavs Left in a Foul Mood

Players trade barbs as the series heads to Cleveland for Game 5

WIZARDS | In the NBA, no one ever fouls. Or so they'd like you to think.

The Wizards series against the Cavaliers has taken a far more physical tone than the teams' last two playoff meetings, where body checks have become as newsworthy as who actually wins the game.

On one side, Cleveland star LeBron James and coach Mike Brown have complained not only about the perceived egregiousness of the fouls the Wizards have committed, but also the countless normal hits James has taken throughout the series.

The Wizards have been adamant that they're just playing hard-nosed playoff basketball. Though they clearly don't mind getting a poke in when they can, even down 3-1 in the series. "Oooh, they're trying to hurt me," center Brendan Haywood said Monday. "Come on, man. This is the playoffs. ... Nobody is trying to hurt him."

Washington has committed two flagrant fouls this series against the Cavs' star, including one by Haywood that got him tossed out of Game 2.

> "Come on, man This is the playoffs. ... Nobody is trying to hurt him."
>
> BRENDAN HAYWOOD

While both sides have legitimate points about the contact and officiating, it could well be the smaller fouls that get called in Game 5 Wednesday 5 that the Wizards have to worry about. With all the talk about hacking, the sure-to-be-raucous Cleveland crowd will be all over the refs for every call they don't make to favor James.

"I never thought I'd be aligning myself with Mark Cuban, but he did [the research on whether stars get more calls] and they don't," NBA commissioner David Stern said last week in Washington.

But don't try to tell that to these hard-nosed Wizards — or even the victim-playing Cavaliers. "Hey, if it's a foul, it's a foul. But don't come out and say you're going to hit somebody," Brown said. ERIC BRANDNER

King James Stands by Proclamation

Cleveland superstar is confident series will end Wednesday night

WIZARDS | LeBron James whistled an unrecognizable tune — no, it wasn't one of Jay-Z's — as he practiced free throws. He seemed blissfully serene.

Staying that way will be tough. He has to go at least one more round with the Washington Wizards.

A target of taunts and physical abuse almost since the opening tip in Game 1, James and the Cavaliers can eliminate the Wizards from the playoffs for the third straight season Wednesday night.

James, who has enhanced his professional resume by dispatching the Wizards on early summer vacations, knows it won't be easy to end this first-round series. The Wizards are in a bind, even desperate.

"They ain't go no choice but to be desperate," said James, who is averaging 29.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists in four games. "They're down 3-1. We need to put them away."

And James stood by his remark: He doesn't think the Wizards can come back to win the series.

"I just have confidence in our team," he said. "It has nothing to do with the Wizards. They're a very good team, but they've got to beat us three straight games, and I can't see that happening." TOM WITHERS (AP)

Boards game: The Washington Wizards are going to have to rebound better against the Cleveland Cavaliers or they'll be eliminated Wednesday | **Today's Post, Sports**

In Brief

NBA PLAYOFFS

Celtics and Hawks Escape Penalty for Fracas in Game 4

The Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks escaped discipline for a Game 4 skirmish in which Kevin Garnett pushed off a referee while players on both benches stepped onto the court. NBA spokesman Tim Frank said Tuesday there would be no fines or suspensions. Four technical fouls resulted in a game Atlanta won 97-92 to tie the best-of-seven series at two games each. Celtics center Kedrick Perkins and Atlanta forward Marvin Williams acknowledged they stepped onto the court as they strained to see what was going on. Such actions are barred in the NBA. (AP)

BASEBALL

Inflamed Shoulder Sends Braves' Smoltz to the DL

Atlanta pitcher John Smoltz went on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday with an ailing right shoulder, though the Braves were told he can get over the problem without surgery. Smoltz was examined in Birmingham, Ala., by Dr. James Andrews, who diagnosed a severely inflamed biceps tendon and inflammation of the rotator cuff in the right shoulder. Andrews injected Smoltz's shoulder for the inflammation and prescribed rest and rehabilitation until he is pain-free, the team said. The Braves aren't sure when Smoltz will return. (AP)

Smoltz

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Ronaldo in Hiding Following Encounter With Prostitutes

Ronaldo went into hiding Tuesday after a run-in with cross-dressing prostitutes that prompted police to investigate whether to charge one with trying to extort money from the striker. The AC Milan player, in Brazil recovering from a knee surgery, canceled two TV appearances, and local media said he will continue physiotherapy at his home. Police said Ronaldo committed no crime, but he was accused by one prostitute of using drugs and not wanting to pay. (AP)

725 | **The amount of money,** in dollars, the best tickets for this year's baseball All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium cost. Tickets start at $150, $75 more than they were last year.

Sports

Ovechkin Up for the MVP

Caps star to compete with Iginla, Maklin for NHL's top prize

CAPITALS | Alex Ovechkin has made a habit of rewriting the Washington Capitals' record books. Next month he'll have the chance to do it again.

Fresh off his first playoff appearance and one of the best regular seasons in more than a decade, the 22-year-old left wing could become the franchise's first MVP after being named one of three Hart Trophy finalists Tuesday. The others are Calgary's Jarome Iginla and Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin, the player taken second behind Ovechkin in the 2004 entry draft.

Ovechkin also could become the District's first MVP in one of the four major sports (NFL, NBA, Major League Baseball and NHL) since Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann in 1983, the second Russian to earn the honor (teammate Sergei Fedorov won in 1994 as a member of the Detroit Red Wings).

Iginla is a finalist for the third time after amassing 50 goals and a career-best 98 points. Malkin finished second behind Ovechkin with 106 points, 46 of which came during teammate Sidney Crosby's 28-game absence due to an ankle sprain.

LAWRENCE JACKSON/AP

Alex Ovechkin was named a finalist for the Hart Trophy Tuesday. He could be the first District athlete in one of the top four major sports to win the MVP since 1983.

AWARDS SEASON

The NHL prizes will be awarded June 12. Ovechkin won't be the only Capital seeking hardware:

➜ Nicklas Backstrom, the center on Ovechkin's line for most of the season, is a finalist for the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year, and Bruce Boudreau could be among the Jack Adams Award finalists for coach of the year, which will be announced Wednesday.

Ovechkin has already earned the Maurice "Rocket" Richard and Art Ross trophies for leading the league in goals and points with 65 and 112, respectively, and scored a greater portion of his team's goals (27.3 percent) and had a hand in more of its points (47.1) than any other player. He also was the first player to score 60 goals in 12 years and is ranked seventh in the league with a plus-minus rating of plus-28.

TARIK EL-BASHIR (THE WASHINGTON POST)

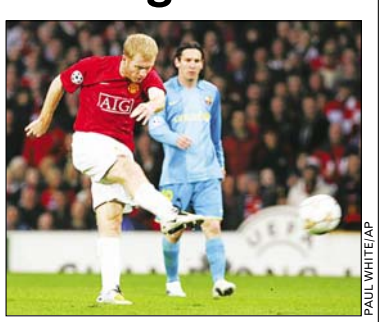
Man U. Sets Up an All-English Final

SOCCER | Manchester United set up the first all-English final in the history of the European Champions League, beating Barcelona 1-0 Tuesday night behind Paul Scholes' goal in the 14th minute.

Manchester United won the home-and-home semifinal on 1-0 aggregate and will meet Chelsea or Liverpool in the final on May 21 in Moscow.

Chelsea hosts Liverpool on Wednesday after gaining a 1-1 tie at Anfield last week when Liverpool's John Arne Riise accidentally headed the ball into his own net during the fifth minute of injury time.

Scholes beat goalkeeper Victor Valdes on a 25-yard shot after a giveaway by Gianluca Zambrotta to put Manchester United in its first Champions League final since 1999, when he missed the victory over Bayern Munich because of a suspension. It was just the second goal of the season for the 33-year-old midfielder, his first since Aug. 15 in a Premier League match against Portsmouth. (AP)



PAUL WHITE/AP

Paul Scholes scores in Manchester's 1-0 victory over Barcelona on Tuesday.

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

WIZARDS (6 P.M. ON TNT AND CSN) The Washington Wizards try to stave off elimination if Game 5 of their series against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

NBA PLAYOFFS (8:30 P.M. ON TNT) The Celtics and Hawks are tied at two games each entering Game 5 at Boston.

NATIONALS (4:30 P.M. ON MASN) Shawn Hill takes the mound for the Nats in a late afternoon game against the Braves.

ORIOLES (7 P.M. ON MASN) You know it's early when the Rays and O's are tied for first place in the AL East.

NHL PLAYOFFS (7 P.M. AND 9:30 P.M. ON VERSUS) The Flyers can take a 3-1 lead over the Montreal Canadiens and Game 4 of the San Jose-Dallas series.

SOCCER (2:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) Chelsea and Liverpool play for a spot in the Champions League final.

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Sports

123 **The number of career victories** Hideo Nomo has, the most by a Japanese pitcher in the majors. Nomo, the 1995 NL rookie of the year who also threw two no-hitters, was released by the Royals Tuesday, likely ending his career.

Red-Hot Rays Find Reason to Hope

Tampa enters series with Baltimore tied for 1st in the AL East

BASEBALL | No one in the Tampa Bay clubhouse savored the moment more than Carl Crawford. Climbing into a tie for first place in the AL East indeed was sweet, even if the season was not yet a month old.

Crawford, a two-time All-Star and four-time AL stolen base champion, has played more games for the Rays than any other player in franchise history, experiencing more excruciating lows than he cares to remember. "It's been one of the best weeks in franchise history. We're going to try to keep it going," he said. "We got that feeling of winning, and we kind of like it."

The Rays, who never have won more than 70 games, took their longest winning streak in nearly three years — six games — into Baltimore on Tuesday for the start of a three-game series against the division co-leading Orioles.

With 14 victories overall, they already had set a club record for wins in April and were three games over .500 this deep into a season for the first time. They got there by coming from behind in five of six victories against Toronto and Boston, sweeping consecutive series for the first time since June 2004.

"This is a confidence builder. It indicates and proves to you that we can play with these guys," manager Joe Maddon said. "It's really no big secret what we did. It's not that we did anything spectacularly well, except we played the game properly." FRED GOODALL (AP)

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Carl Crawford, center, celebrates Tampa's victory over Boston Friday. Crawford, who's been through the lean years with the Rays, is finally getting a taste of success.

Price May Be Wrong for Habs Against Flyers

NFL PLAYOFFS | Carey Price's inconsistent series could land him on Montreal's bench. Canadiens coach Guy Carbonneau declined to announce his starting goaltender for the pivotal Game 4 against Philadelphia on Wednesday night. The Flyers lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series 2-1.

Price was replaced by Jaroslav Halak after allowing three goals on 12 shots in a 3-2 loss Monday. The rookie has a .853 save percentage in the last three games but was outstanding in the regular season and in a first-round victory versus Boston.

Across the ice, there's no controversy. Martin Biron has been sensational for the Flyers, stopping 32 shots in Game 3. He has a .923 save percentage in the series. (AP)

WeekendPass makes the weekend noteworthy.

Every Thursday in Express.

A publication of The Washington Post

XX143bC 5x6

"[Tyler] Hansbrough went easy on me. I thought I had it." —**Barack Obama**, on a layup that rimmed out during practice with UNC's basketball team Tuesday.

Sports

Brown Lands in Charlotte

Much-traveled coach teams with Jordan to turn around Bobcats

NBA | Larry Brown wanted to resurrect his vagabond, Hall of Fame coaching career. Michael Jordan needed a veteran teacher and a big hire to rescue his sinking reputation as an NBA executive.

The two former North Carolina players teamed up Tuesday when Jordan introduced Brown as coach of the Charlotte Bobcats — his ninth NBA coaching job. Brown agreed to a four-year contract, returning to the state where his nomadic coaching journey began.

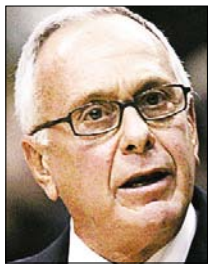
"How are you going to say no to Michael?" Brown said. "I've known him a long time. The things he stands for have made our game better. There's no way I could say no to him. It was a pretty easy decision once my wife said yes."

The 67-year-old Brown replaces Sam Vincent, who Jordan hired last year despite no NBA head coaching experience. Vincent, who was fired Saturday, struggled to find consistent rotations and clashed with players in a 32-50 season.

The Bobcats are in their fourth year, and Brown gives the struggling franchise instant credibility. He's one of only five NBA coaches with more than 1,000 wins and the only coach to lead teams to NBA and NCAA titles. MIKE CRANSTON (AP)

LEAPIN' LARRY

Larry Brown accepted his ninth NBA head coaching job Tuesday, with the Charlotte Bobcats. It may the final leg of a very long journey:



- Brown's nine NBA teams are three more than any other coach.
- His last coaching job was the disastrous 2005-06 season in New York, when the Knicks went 23-59.
- Brown improved teams in Denver, San Antonio, Indiana and Philadelphia, and won an NBA title with the Detroit Pistons in 2004.
- In the college ranks, Brown took UCLA to the Final Four and won an NCAA title with Kansas.

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Cars

AMERICAN SUZUKI/LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2009 Suzuki SX4 Crossover is the best-selling small SUV in Europe, and the cheapest and most fuel-efficient all-wheel-drive vehicle sold in the United States.

Comfortable And Cheap

'09 SX4 Suzuki feels tight and well-sorted, and it's affordable

SPORTY | Right now, Suzuki's sexiest product is the SX4 Crossover, which has the distinction of being the best-selling small SUV in Europe, and the cheapest and most fuel-efficient all-wheel-drive vehicle sold in the U.S.

And yet, "cheap" is such a harsh word. Think of the SX4 Crossover as a slow, homely, extremely affordable Bugatti Veyron.

I really like this car, and I search my notebook to see why. It's a tidy and cute design, with lots of go-its-own-way charisma. The seat height is quite tall, providing a natural upright seating position. At the same time, the sill lines are very low and the windshield slopes away almost out of sight, so the outward sightlines from the tall saddle are terrific. These design choices are quite deliberate, as Suzuki wanted maximum glass around the driver.

What's it like to drive? Pretty entertaining, all things considered. The car feels tight and well sorted. All the black rubber-and-plastic bits fit together well. The instrumentation glows cheerfully, with an orange jack-o'-lantern beam.

NUTS & BOLTS

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Powertrain: 2.0-liter DOHC inline four-cylinder; five-speed manual transmission; all-wheel drive | **Wheelbase:** 98.4 inches | **Measurements:** 162.8 inches long, 2,855 pounds | **Horsepower:** 143 at 5,800 rpm | **Torque:** 136 at 5,800 | **EPA Fuel Economy:** 21 mpg city, 28 highway

The 0-to-60 mph acceleration hovers in the low-nine-second range, but the more important 0-to-30 mph acceleration is quick enough that no one will think the SX4 is short on ponies.

Well, not no one. Suzuki has entered into a partnership with tuner Road Race Motorsports, which has fashioned a turbocharger kit for the SX4, bumping horsepower from the modest 143 hp to an entirely immodest 221.

Question: Will the seven-year/100,000-mile warranty apply to a car with this turbocharged grenade stuck under the hood?

A sporty Suzuki on four wheels? Now there's a concept.

DAN NEIL (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

LIVE ONLINE

CAR CARE

We're in the market for a new car that can accommodate a toddler, an infant and a pretty large dog. We're looking at minivans, including the new Chrysler Town & Country, the Sienna and the Odyssey.

The Town & Country, Toyota Sienna and Honda Odyssey are equally competitive minivans. Shop for features and price. I'd also look at the Kia Sedona and Hyundai Entourage — seriously.

What are some good techniques for buying a car? I don't want to negotiate a good price only to find a ton of "extras" in financing. I don't want to spend hours at a dealer haggling. I'm not sure which Web site prices to believe.

Call Jack Fitzgerald of Fitzgerald Automotive. He will give you a price over the phone. What I can't figure out is why other dealerships won't do the same thing.

A BMW person is not a Mercedes-Benz person.

What do you think of the Mercedes Benz C300 Sport versus the BMW 328i? If you could get a good deal on an '08 C300 Sport, would you go with it? Or would you hold out for the '09 later this summer?

First, you have to examine your soul. Seriously. A BMW person is not a Mercedes-Benz person. A Mercedes-Benz person is not a BMW person. Personally, I'm a Mercedes-Benz person. I like solid quality. I like a smooth ride with adequate power in a car that's tush-plush. So, I'd go with the M-B C300 Sport, taking a deal on an '08 if it's priced better than an '09. which isn't going to be that markedly different from the '08. None of this applies if you are a BMW person.

washingtonpost.com
Automotive expert Warren Brown's Car Culture column addresses the social, political and economic trends of the industry.

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Travel

HONESTLY ABE: A new Civil War bus tour of D.C. featuring a visit to the newly restored Lincoln Cottage and Abe Lincoln's summer retreat debuts on Memorial Day weekend.

SRDJAN ILIC/AP

The scenic coast of Montenegro is becoming home to lots of hotels and tall buildings, but the wilderness is disappearing.

The Fall of the Wild

Montenegro loses a bit of beauty due to new development

DESTINATIONS | "Experience Wild Beauty" is Montenegro's newest tourist slogan. But while the beauty of the "Pearl of the Adriatic" is undeniable, the wilderness is disappearing.

The tiny Balkan state — nestled in the southeast corner of Europe — is a breathtaking mix of colors: blazing blue skies, lush green mountains, white pebble beaches and turquoise Adriatic Sea waters.

But since it split from much larger Serbia in 2006, Montenegro experienced a real estate boom, with mostly Russians and Britons investing en masse in new hotels, tourist resorts or even complete new villages.

The result: Narrow, winding roads along the coastline are jammed with construction trucks, and hills and forests are being leveled to accommodate new concrete structures that dot the landscape.

"The nature is spectacular, but it is sad to watch how it is being eroded," said Donna Jones, an English retiree vacationing in Budva.

Even so, tourism is skyrocketing in Montenegro after a decade of bloody Balkan wars in the 1990s slowed the stream of visitors to a trickle. Most tourists now come from Russia, but the sparkling sea waters, stony mountain peaks, crystal-clear rivers and lakes increasingly draw Western visitors.

Montenegro is considered a bargain tourist destination for Westerners. A room in a private home starts at $30 per night, about half the price of a similar room in a beach town in neighboring Croatia. In new luxury hotels on the Becici beach south of Budva, the prices for a double room can start at $160 per night.

The best time to visit Montenegro is offseason — May, the beginning of June and the end of September — as the Montenegrin Riviera tends to become overcrowded with tourists amid scorching summer heat, sometimes even triggering water shortages.

"Montenegro has become a real tourist destination and is no longer a wild little place in Europe's backyard," said Nikola Lazarevic, owner of the Grispolis restaurant in the quiet village of Bigova, perched on a deep sea bay nestled between hills covered with ancient olive trees. DUSAN STOJANOVIC (AP)

Real Deals

FROM BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE

GO TO JAMAICA, MAN

$839 The Riu Tropical Bay package places you among the beautiful beaches of western Jamaica, where you can relax for four nights. The 396-room resort is directly on the white-sand beach of Bloody Bay, so you'll be close to the water. If you'd like to do more than lounge on the beach, you can take advantage of sunfish sailing, snorkeling, windsurfing and one free scuba lesson in the pool (all included as part of the package.) **WHEN:** Most of June and July. **DETAILS:** Holiday surcharges and weekend add-ons may apply. **CONTACT:** Apple Vacations, 1-800-517-2000, Applevacations.com.

TOUR NATIONAL PARKS

$995 The Mount Rushmore, Grand Teton and Yellowstone package includes seven nights' accommodations split among Rapid City, S.D.; Billings, Mont.; Yellowstone National Park; Jackson, Wyo.; and Salt Lake City. **WHEN:** May 28-June 30; Sept. 1-Sept. 26. **DETAILS:** Airfare not included. **CONTACT:** Caravan Tours, 1-800-227-2826, Caravan.com.

(BUDGET TRAVEL MAGAZINE)

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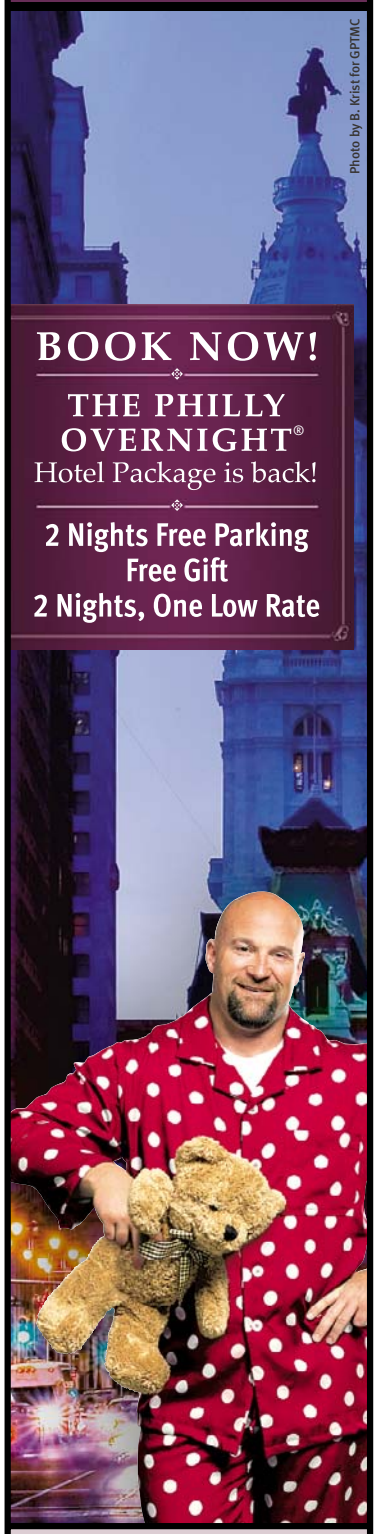

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BEATLE-MANIA: In 1969, John Lennon gave a handwritten copy of the lyrics to "Give Peace a Chance" to a teenage fan who sneaked past security guards during his "bed-in." It will be auctioned in July and is expected to fetch more than $400,000.

Entertainment

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

EVERYONE HAS A PAST: Tom Petty and Mike Campbell have reassembled their pre-Heartbreakers band, Mudcrutch.

Muddy Waters

Tom Petty uses his clout to reunite the band, 33 years late

REUNION | The misadventure began, as so many do, in a cinder-block roadhouse in Gainesville, Fla., where, in the early '70s, a band with the unfortunate name of Mudcrutch played muscular music that melded old-man country with new-kid rock.

Mudcrutch was better than good, too. Everyone predicted the scruffy kids would be stars someday. That didn't happen, at least not the way anyone expected. The young band headed west to Los Angeles and cut a single, but the record fell flat. Mudcrutch was one and done, so, 33 years ago, the members called it quits.

The story should end there, but it doesn't. They have a new album — their debut album, in fact — hitting stores Tuesday from Reprise Records. The reason for all this? Mudcrutch's lead singer and bassist is Tom Petty, who, of course, became one of the signature rock stars of his generation as well as one of its maverick souls. One of the great things about being a rock star is watching your whims come to life, and that's exactly what happened when Petty decided last year that Mudcrutch should live again.

"You wouldn't exactly call it a career move, would you?" Petty said, sitting with Tom Leadon, Petty's childhood friend and fellow Mudcrutch founder. "What this is all about is the music. Being in this band is so much fun, there's something pure about it."

The expression on Leadon's face was the kind you see in snapshots of lottery winners. Leadon has been a music teacher outside Nashville in recent years, while the drummer in Mudcrutch, Randall Marsh, was teaching drums in Florida. Mike Campbell is on guitar, known to Petty fans as the "co-captain" of the star's more familiar band, the Heartbreakers. The four original Mudcrutch members are joined by Benmont Tench, the Heartbreakers' keyboardist, who also grew up in Gainesville.

"I watched Mudcrutch play 'Dizzy Miss Lizzie,' and I remember thinking, 'Who are these guys? They're great!'" he said.

But the band wound up nothing more than a record-store trivia answer. The whole reunion thing reeks of stunt — until you listen to the album and hear them talk about their band heritage. The album, titled simply "Mudcrutch," has more swamp, stomp and twang than records that made the Heartbreakers famous.

If there were any lingering subplots about success, resentment and what might have been, they haven't shown up yet. As Marsh notes, "We're old friends and if it didn't work out, that's OK; we would still have fun." GEOFF BOUCHER (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

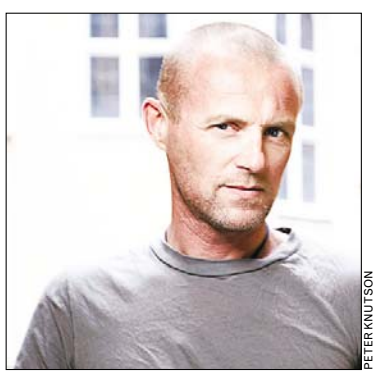
Nordic Thrills Translate Well

'The Redbreast' inaugurates a new genre: 'Scandinoirvia'

BOOKS | Norwegian writer Jo Nesbø just had his novel "The Redbreast" published in the U.S. The book was named the best Norwegian crime novel ever, and though Americans might think he'd have little competition in that category, Nesbø's work could be considered alongside that of a Nordic literary giant.

"Henrik Ibsen ... he's a crime writer," said Nesbø, who will read and sign books at Bridge Streets Books on Wednesday. "Most people don't realize the techniques he uses as a playwright are the same as that of a crime writer — that gradually the truth is revealed, and stories and events in the past will always haunt you."

The past haunts many characters in "The Redbreast," which mixes history, politics and modern-day noir to create a thrilling literary potboiler that jumps from the World War II trenches of Leningrad to Oslo at the millennium.



PETER KNUTSON

AUTOMATIC WIN: Nesbø is actually superior to Ibsen, because he is alive.

While "The Redbreast" deals with international intrigue and an assassination attempt on a U.S. president, the story also involves many details specific to Norway.

"If you stay within your universe, people will understand. People are smart," Nesbø said. "In my first couple novels, I didn't think of an international audience at all, but I don't think I would have done it differently." CHRISTOPHER PORTER (EXPRESS)

Today's Top Stops

FOR MORE TOP STOPS AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES, VISIT READEXPRESS.COM

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Tainted Love

1 "Antony and Cleopatra," Shakespeare's underappreciated geopolitical romantic tragedy, plays out like any political scandal in D.C. — well, with more poetry and fewer crack pipes. The Shakespeare Theatre's production will play in repertory with that other spicy political drama "Julius Caesar."

➜ *Shakespeare Theatre, 610 F Street NW; 7:30 p.m, $39-$56; 202-547-1122. (Gallery Place)*

JASON IERACE

THE WAIFS

Sing for Your Supper

2 This Aussie folk-rock band returns to touring after a long hiatus. They're mellow and mellifluous, but their pert harmonies keep things interesting without becoming abrasive. With Pete and J.

➜ *Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 7:30 p.m., $25; 703-549-7500.*

ZUMBA CLASS

Shake It Like a Polaroid

3 Tomorrow evening, if you feel like exercising after work but don't want to run all alone, you can try a free class in Zumba, the new fitness craze that's billed as a workout/Latin dance party.

➜ *Lululemon athletica, 2847 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington; 7 p.m, free; 703-286-5115. (Clarendon)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment

DELICIOUS IRONY: Gary Dourdan, star of "CSI," was arrested Tuesday on charges of drug possession. Hey, maybe it's the only way he can escape the crippling envy of "Law and Order: SVU" that he must feel. Every. Single. Day.

Musical Identity Crisis

Anti-Flag offers an eclectic mix of punk and everything else

MUSIC | Political pop-punk band Anti-Flag is back with another disc that will cleanly divide listeners between those who enjoy their hooky tunes and bratty far-left screeds and those who, frankly, do not.

However, even haters have to admit that "The Bright Lights of America" is far and away the band's most stylistically diverse album.

"America" ventures far from the band's usual blend of pop-punk, ska and hardcore to include folk, pop-rock, alternative rock, dance-punk, children's choirs, and instruments that the members of the band cannot actually play, among other things.

Haters also must admit that the members of Anti-Flag can play their chosen instruments quite well and have been doing so professionally for some time now. Bassist Chris #2, in particular, is remarkably agile on the fretboard.

Now, the problems with Anti-Flag: Like a self-professed maverick pandering to the center in advance of the general election, the band's big shiny pop moments are a guilty pleasure at best, insufferably cheesy at worst. There are too many such moments on this record, and it feel like the band is compromising its sound.

"America" is the second album the band has recorded for RCA after about a decade of underground releases, and its best movements are without fail its least saccharine: straightforward punk-pop, Clash-style ska, hardcore songs, folk songs about being tortured by right-wing ideologues and so on.

Written and recorded in the wake of tragedy — the 2007 killing of Chris #2's sister and her boyfriend — much of the album's material has a dark, personal edge that is unusual for the band. It is an uncomfortable truth that the songs most clearly born of tragedy are the album's strongest. TIM FOLLOS

readexpress.com

Read the entire Q & A with Anti-Flag's drummer, Pat Thetic at **readexpress.com**

ROB LARSON

D.C. INTRIGUE: Anti-Flag will bring its political punk to the 9:30 Club tonight, but expect a more varied and perhaps mainstream sound than it usually has.

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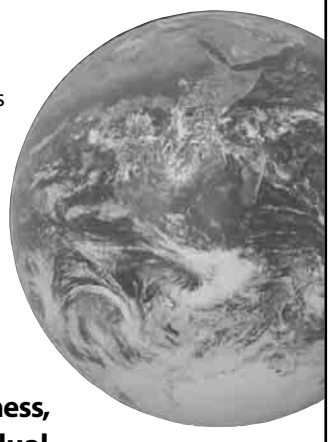

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DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (200 435) 745 1030
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FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (100 200 345 445) 630 730 915 1015
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (145 245 530) 715 815
OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (430) 1000
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 700 945
STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D 745 1030
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (145 400) 615 830
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (130 400) 630 900
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BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1130 150) 420 700 940
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 245) 520 800 1030
DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 220) 500 745 1025
OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1200) 615
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (1220 100) 320 430 630 740 930 1035
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 300) 530 810 1040
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1245) 315 345 715 920 1020
STREET KINGS - DP (R) - ID REQ'D 330 710 940
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 215) 450 750 1015
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (1150 200) 440 720 945
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (1145 230)
21 (PG-13) (1235) 340 650 1000
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1135 210)
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BABY MAMA (PG-13) (145 430) 715 1000
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 745 1025
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (100 200 345 445) 630 730 915 1015
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (230 515) 800 1030
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (200 345 445) 730 915 1015
STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D (145 430) 715 1000
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D 900 PM
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LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (130 415) 700 945
21 (PG-13) (130 415) 700 945
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (115 330) 645
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DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (300 530) 800 1030
BABY MAMA (PG-13) (215 435) 715 935
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (245 510) 745 1010
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (230 510) 745 1020
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (300 530) 800 1030
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (145 420) 715 950
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (130 345) 600 815 1025
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (145 400) 645 900
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (210 450) 730 1010
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DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (215 445) 730 1000
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM - DP (PG-13) (130 415) 730 1015
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (230 515) 815 1100
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (145 400) 645 900
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TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (115 330) 600 815 1045

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BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1130 150) 420 700 940
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OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1200) 615
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (1220 100) 320 430 630 740 930 1035
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 300) 530 810 1040
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1245) 315 345 715 920 1020
STREET KINGS - DP (R) - ID REQ'D 330 710 940
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 215) 450 750 1015
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (1150 200) 440 720 945
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (1145 230)
21 (PG-13) (1235) 340 650 1000
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (1135 210)
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STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D (230 515) 800
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (1240 305 530) 810
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (1255 345) 640 930
UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) (130 420) 710 955
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (135 400) 635
THE BANK JOB (R) - ID REQ'D (150 430) 720 1005
MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) (110) 650
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DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (230 510) 800 1040
BABY MAMA (PG-13) (210 445) 720 1000
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (140 220 420 500) 700 740 940 1020
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (110 150 410 450) 710 750 1010
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (200 430 510) 810 1030
OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (120) 730
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (250 535) 820
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) (100 345) 640 915
PROM NIGHT (PG-13) (215 440) 725 950
STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D (255 540) 830
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D 620 850
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (120 350) 630 900
21 (PG-13) (135 435) 735 1035
TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) (125 400) 650 925
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (130 400)

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OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1240) 630
DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 245 515) 745 1015
BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1130 1230 210 310 450 550) 720 820 1010
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 1250 220 320 500 555) 740 825 955 1040
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (1215 120 300 410 540) 710 840 950
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 140 240 330 430 530) 730 830 920 1020
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 1220 215 315 510) 610 750 850 1030
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STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 250 520) 800 1030
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D 945 PM
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LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (110 350) 635
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) 930 PM
21 (PG-13) (100 340) 640 940
UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) (115 345) 620 900
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (1200 230 445) 700

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Adv. Tix on Sale IRON MAN (PG-13) ★
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) (145 425) 710 940
STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D (110 410) 645 925
PROM NIGHT - DP (PG-13) (140 420) 720 945
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (130 350) 650 910
THE SUPER HERO MOVIE (PG-13) (200 440) 730 1000
STOP LOSS (R) - ID REQ'D 900 PM
21 (PG-13) (100 400) 700 950
MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) (150 430) 725 955
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) (120 330) 630
10,000 BC (PG-13) (105 340) 640 920
COUNTERFEITERS (R) - ID REQ'D (125 355) 705 930

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BABY MAMA (PG-13) (1125 200 440) 720 950
DECEPTION (R) - ID REQ'D (1120 210 450) 750 1025
HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) - ID REQ'D (100 220 400 500) 640 740 920 1020
FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) (1130 110 230 410 510) 710 810 945 1040
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 240 530) 820
88 MINUTES (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 250 515) 745 1015
STREET KINGS (R) - ID REQ'D 715 1000
SMART PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D 935 PM
PROM NIGHT - DP (PG-13) (1240 300 520) 800 1030
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (1135 155 430) 645 930
LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) (1250 350) 630
21 (PG-13) (105 405) 650 940
HORTON HEARS A WHO (G) (1145 215 445)
OC & DA: FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) - ID REQ'D (150 440) 730 1010

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703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 2:30, 5:10, 8:00
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:20, 3:15, 4:55, 5:45, 7:25, 8:15, 9:45
DECEPTION (R) 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) 1:50, 2:50, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 7:50, 9:25, 10:20
88 MINUTES (R) 2:25, 3:05, 5:00, 5:50, 7:40, 8:35, 10:15
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) 1:45, 4:10, 6:55, 9:10
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 1:40, 3:20, 4:25, 5:55, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 2:35, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20
SMART PEOPLE (R) 7:45, 10:10
STREET KINGS (R) 1:30, 2:55, 4:05, 5:40, 6:45, 8:25, 9:40
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
THE RUINS (R) 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
21 (PG13) 1:55, 4:50, 7:55
SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) 2:05, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) 2:10, 4:40, 8:15
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 3:00, 5:25

AMC SELECT

UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG13) 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

STREET KINGS (R) 1:30, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15
BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:00, 9:40
DECEPTION (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35
DECEPTION (R) [D] [CC] 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05
88 MINUTES (R) 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:00, 2:10, 3:35, 4:45, 6:10, 7:20, 8:45, 9:55
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:05
LEATHERHEADS (PG13) 1:15, 3:55, 6:30, 9:10
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
21 (PG13) 1:05, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20
SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 1:25, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

LEATHERHEADS (PG13) 1:35, 4:35, 7:20, 10:30
BABY MAMA (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
DECEPTION (R) 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
88 MINUTES (R) 2:40, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:30, 4:25, 7:35, 10:20
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 2:20, 5:05, 8:00, 10:30
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
SMART PEOPLE (R) 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05
STREET KINGS (R) 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25
21 (PG13) 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50
21 (PG13) [CC] 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50
THE BANK JOB (R) 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:25

AMC SELECT

THE LIFE BEFORE HER EYES (R) 1:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:40
IN BRUGES (R) 1:35, 4:00, 6:50, 9:55

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 3:25, 6:30, 9:25
BABY MAMA (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:35, 9:15, 10:00
DECEPTION (R) ✓ 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) ✓ 1:55, 3:00, 5:00, 5:45, 7:45, 8:30, 10:10
88 MINUTES (R) 2:00, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:00
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) [D] [CC] 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
STREET KINGS (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15
LEATHERHEADS (PG13) 1:10, 6:25
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20
21 (PG13) 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55
SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) 3:55, 9:00
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 1:20, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

BABY MAMA (PG13) ✓ 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
DECEPTION (R) ✓ 2:30, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) ✓ 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
88 MINUTES (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10
SMART PEOPLE (R) 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 2:55, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
21 (PG13) 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

DECEPTION (R) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05
88 MINUTES (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 12:30, 1:15, 3:15, 4:20, 6:15, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 1:05, 2:05, 3:35, 4:35, 6:05, 7:05, 8:35, 9:35
STREET KINGS (R) 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15
SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG13) 12:25, 2:35, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS (PG13) 1:05, 4:05, 7:00, 9:45
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:40
COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) 12:40, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:50

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

PRICELESS (NR–NOT RATED) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00

AMC SELECT

THE VISITOR (PG13) 1:40, 3:50, 7:40
THE LIFE BEFORE HER EYES (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:20
MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS (PG13) 2:10, 7:10
MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:50
THE COUNTERFEITERS (R) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00
THE BAND'S VISIT (PG13) 4:40
IN BRUGES (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:30

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

SHINE A LIGHT (PG13) 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

LEATHERHEADS (PG13) 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:20
BABY MAMA (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 4:55, 5:55, 7:20, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50
DECEPTION (R) ✓ 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) ✓ 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:40, 10:55
88 MINUTES (R) 1:55, 5:05, 7:45, 10:40
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:40, 2:45, 4:20, 5:35, 7:10, 8:25, 10:00, 11:00
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 12:35, 1:45, 3:10, 4:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:35, 10:15
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 1:10, 3:35, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25
SMART PEOPLE (R) 9:30 PM
STREET KINGS (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:05, 10:30
21 (PG13) 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:55
21 (PG13) [D] [CC] 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:55
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 12:40, 2:55, 5:00, 7:15

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

BABY MAMA (PG13) ✓ 2:40, 5:00, 7:30
DECEPTION (R) ✓ 2:20, 4:50, 7:40
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) ✓ 2:00, 4:40, 7:20
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 2:30, 5:10, 7:50
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 2:50, 5:20, 8:00
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 2:10, 4:30
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 3:10, 5:15, 7:25

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL PRESENTATION

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00
BABY MAMA (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 2:40, 3:50, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00
BABY MAMA (PG13) [D] [CC] ✓ 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:45
DECEPTION (R) ✓ 2:05, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) ✓ 12:50, 1:50, 3:15, 4:30, 5:40, 7:15, 8:10, 9:45, 10:35
88 MINUTES (R) 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
EXPELLED: NO INTELLIGENCE ALLOWED (PG) 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05, 10:30
THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG13) 3:00, 5:45, 8:30
FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) 1:40, 2:50, 4:20, 5:30, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40
PROM NIGHT (PG13) 1:10, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
SMART PEOPLE (R) 7:50, 10:05
STREET KINGS (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
U, ME AUR HUM (NR–NOT RATED) 3:05, 6:30, 9:50
LEATHERHEADS (PG13) 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15
21 (PG13) 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) 1:15, 3:25, 5:40

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

BABY MAMA (PG13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15
HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) 1:50, 4:20, 7:20
88 MINUTES (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:05
NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 1:35, 4:15, 7:00
21 (PG13) 1:55, 4:30, 7:10

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons [CC] - Closed Captioning · [D] - Descriptive Video Service

Times for Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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Entertainment

SECOND CHANCE: Mariah Carey is making another movie. Yes, despite "Glitter." "Tennessee" will be a road trip movie about two brothers on a road trip who meet a waitress, played by Carey. Apparently, this one is not autobiographical at all.

A Modern Renaissance Man

Terrence Howard is reviving his thwarted singing career

ASPIRATION | Terrence Howard is having a dream season for an actor, starring in one of the summer's biggest movies with the superhero flick "Iron Man" and collecting critical acclaim for his Broadway role in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

It would all be very exciting for Howard ... if acting was actually his true passion.

When asked about taking his first major role more than a decade ago, Howard responds bitterly. "I wouldn't have done it. I would have stayed true to what I initially wanted to do."

What he really wants to concentrate on is singing. Yes, singing.

At 39, Howard plans to make his musical debut this fall with a mix of pop-rock tunes he wrote or co-wrote. They draw upon his musical influences such as Simon & Garfunkel, Jim Croce and the easy-listening sounds of The Carpenters.

"This has been my dream forever. I just want to go on the road with it," says Howard, "I'll do a film every year and a half or something, but I'm not going to be distracted by the cute girl at the bar anymore," he says. "I'm just feeling the girl that I came here to meet."

For Howard, that "cute girl at the bar" was acting. He has evolved from character actor to matinee idol, with a role in the Oscar-winning film "Crash" and his Oscar-nominated turn in "Hustle & Flow." In "Iron Man," he plays Rhodey, star Tony Stark's best bud — and surefire component of the inevitable sequels.

His big break came in 1992, in the TV miniseries "The Jacksons: The American Dream." But Howard describes it as his first real mistake.

GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES

Terrence Howard just wants to sing.

"I got sidetracked," he recalls. "I kept thinking, 'I'll get a music deal somehow,' even though I couldn't play anything at the time. I thought because I was a songwriter, because I had dreams, it would work out."

After initially getting resistance from record labels, his convincing portrayal of D-Jay, the pimp and aspiring rapper in "Hustle & Flow," changed people's minds.

When asked where his songs fit in the contemporary musical landscape, Howard replies curtly: "It don't fit. It's not supposed to. The moment it starts fitting in, I need to quit." NEKESA MUMBI MOODY (AP)

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USA! USA!: Did you know Pamela Anderson was Canadian? Well, too late. She's not Canadian anymore. The former "Baywatch" star, 40, is now officially a citizen. She celebrated by going to the White House Correspondent's dinner.

Television

ON TV TONIGHT

HARROWING JOURNEY
SECRETS OF THE DEAD (8 p.m., PBS) recalls an escape from a concentration camp.

DOES ANYONE STILL CARE?
With only five crooners to go, we've reached the point on **AMERICAN IDOL** (9 p.m., Fox) when talent is often sacrificed on the altar of popularity.

HISTORICAL MONSTERS!
No one is sure why a network called the History Channel broadcasts programs like **MONSTERQUEST: AMERICAN WEREWOLF** (9 p.m.)

MORE MONSTERS!
Adolescent terrors on **SUPERNANNY** (9 p.m., ABC).

MAN, BALTIMORE
Election tactics come under scrutiny on a repeat of the HBO series **THE WIRE** (9:30 p.m., BET) from 2006.

MATT SAYLES/AP

15 MINUTES ARE UP: Montag's fame is the third sign of the Apocalypse.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE
Matthew Broderick, Heidi Montag and Josh Groban appear on **LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN** (11:35 p.m., CBS). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Down on the Farm

'Farmer' showcases the ideal way to choose a life partner

REALITY | Comedy writers and dramatists have been mining the cultural differences between country folk and city folk since audiences first gathered in amphitheaters. It's given us everything from ancient Roman comedy to "My Cousin Vinny." The new series "Farmer Wants a Wife" (9 p.m., CW) offers a "Simple Life" variation on "The Bachelor" with a few buckets of "Green Acres" thrown in for good measure.

CW TV

WHAT REALLY MATTERS: Who cares if she can read? Can she catch a chicken?

"Farmer" also follows the strict rules of the reality genre. The high-maintenance women arrive in high spirits and wearing high heels. The bevy of 10 ranges from a deeply devout virgin to a deranged exhibitionist who annoys everyone with her half-baked ideas about class, politics and religion, and the need to marry rich men. Such conversational aside seem distracting when the chicken-catching competition requires both stamina and concentration.

Farmer Matt is a pleasant 29-year-old. He's well-groomed, and polite and he loves his mother. The women literally quiver in his wake. They don't seem to mind that he seems too perfectly packaged and overly eager to show off his chiseled physique. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

4.30.08		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC 4	News (N) CC		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Deal or No Deal A man from Florida and a woman from New York play. CC				Law & Order "Bogeyman" (N) CC		News (N) CC	Tonight Show
	WTTG 5	News (N)	TMZ (N) CC	The Simpsons	Seinfeld CC	'Til Death (N)	Back to You (N)	American Idol (S Live) CC		News (N)		News (N)	TMZ CC
	WJLA 7	News (N) CC	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap "Sundstrom/Tower" (N)		Supernanny "Clause Family" (N)		Boston Legal "Indecent Proposals"		News (N) CC	(:35) Nightline (N)
	WUSA 9	News (N) CC	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Price Is Right Spectacular		Criminal Minds "In Heat" (N) CC		CSI: NY "Admissions" (N) CC		News (N) CC	Late Show
	WDCA 20	Judge Judy (N)	Judge Joe Brown	King of Queens	King of Queens	Under One Roof	In Living Color	Breaking the Magician's Code 2		Every-Raymond	King of the Hill	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
	WMPT 22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		First Impression	Artworks-Week	Secrets of the Dead (N)		Carrier "Rites of Passage; True Believers" (N) CC (DVS)				First Impression	Artworks-Week
	WETA 26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Secrets of the Dead (N)		Carrier "Rites of Passage; True Believers" (N) CC (DVS)				Carrier CC (DVS)	
	WHUT 32	Business Schl	Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	Nobel Minds Nobel Prize winners.		Success by 6: Bright Start		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) CC	
	WDCW 50	My Wife and Kids	Family Guy CC	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N) CC		Farmer Wants a Wife CC		Friends CC	Friends CC	Family Guy CC	Sex and the City
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files CC		CSI: Miami "Deviant" CC		CSI: Miami "Tinder Box" CC		CSI: Miami "Freaks & Tweaks" CC		CSI: Miami "Body Count" CC		CSI: Miami "Blood Brothers" CC	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter CC		Rogue Nature Humboldt squid. CC		Wild Kingdom "Bandits of Selous"		Miami Animal Police "Pit Bull Raid"		Escape to Chimp Eden CC		Wild Kingdom "Bandits of Selous"	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Lloyd. (N) CC			Access Granted	College Hill	Iron Ring CC	Black Poker Stars	The Wire Carcetti responds to a campaign smear. CC			A Different World	A Different World
	Bravo	Top Chef "Film Food" CC		Top Chef "The Elements" CC		Top Chef "Tailgating" CC		Top Chef "Improv" CC		Top Chef "Common Threads" (N)		Top Chef "Common Threads" CC	
	Comedy	(5:00) ★ "White Coats" (2004) CC		Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Futurama CC	South Park CC	South Park CC	Lewis Black	Daily Show	Colbert Report
	Court	World's Wildest Police Videos CC		Cops CC	Cops CC	Most Shocking		Most Daring		Most Daring "Madness & Mayhem"		Forensic Files	Forensic Files
	Discovery	Cash Cab CC	Cash Cab CC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Futurecar "The Body"		MythBusters "MacGyver." CC		Some Assembly Required		How It's Made	How It's Made
	DISCH	Code Blue "Free and Easy" CC		Trauma: Life in the ER CC		Trauma: Life in the ER "Life Support"		Plastic Surgery: Before and After		Inside Brookhaven Obesity Clinic		Trauma: Life in the ER "Life Support"	
	Disney	Wizards-Place	Wizards-Place	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	★★ "The Country Bears" (2002) Christopher Walken.			That's So Raven	That's So Raven	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana
	E!	Court Show	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	★★★ "About a Boy" (2002, Comedy-Drama) Hugh Grant, Toni Collette.				Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	E! News	Chelsea Lately
	FX	(5:30) ★★ "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" (2005, Action) Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie.				★★★ "Double Jeopardy" (1999, Suspense) Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd.				★★★ "Double Jeopardy" (1999, Suspense) Tommy Lee Jones, Ashley Judd.			
	HGTV	Open House	Hidden Potential	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Get It Sold (N)	Deserving Design	Design on a Dime	House Hunters	House Hunters	Haulin' House	What's-House?
	Family	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Grounded for Life	Grounded for Life	"Princess" (2008, Fantasy) Nora Zehetner, Kip Pardue, Nicole Anderson. CC				America's Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club CC	
	History	Sinking a Destroyer CC		Modern Marvel		Modern Marvels: Rats (N) CC		MonsterQuest "American Werewolf"		UFO Hunters "Code Red" (N) CC		UFO Files "Alien Encounters" CC	
	Lifetime	Reba CC	Reba "The Feud"	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba CC	Reba CC	"The Gathering" (2007, Suspense) Peter Gallagher, Jamie-Lynn Sigler. CC				Will & Grace	Will & Grace
	MTV	Next	Next (N)	A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila		True Life Jobs in the sex industry.		The Real World CC		The Real World (N) CC		MTV Special	
	NICK	Zoey 101 CC	Zoey 101 CC	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101 CC	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "The Menace" CC		Ghost Hunters "Tombstone" CC		Ghost Hunters California haunts.		Ghost Hunters "Haunted Asylum" (N)		Destination Truth Sea monster. CC		Ghost Hunters "Haunted Asylum"	
	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		UFC Unleashed		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		DEA (N)	
	TBS	Friends CC	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Family Guy CC	Family Guy CC	House of Payne	House of Payne	House of Payne	House of Payne	Friends CC	Friends CC
	TLC	What Not to Wear "Ashley" CC		Jon & Kate Plus 8	Jon & Kate Plus 8	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People
	TNT	Law & Order "Humiliation"		Law & Order "Deep Vote"		NBA Basketball First Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) CC					NBA Basketball First Round -- Teams TBA. (Live) CC		
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		★★ "Bruce Almighty" (2003, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman. CC			
	VHI	Celebracadabra CC		40 Greatest Pranks				The Flavor of Love Flav seeks help.		The Flavor of Love Meeting parents.		(:05) Miss Rap Supreme CC	
SPAN.	TELEM	Los Plateados	Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones		La Traicion		Victoria		Pecados Ajenos		Noti-Telemndo	Titulares y Mas
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Querendón		Al Diablo con Los Guapos		Fuego en la Sangre (N)		Don Francisco Presenta		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) CC		Baseball Tonight (Live) CC		MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) CC						SportsCenter (Live) CC	
	ESPN2	NASCAR Now	NBA Perform	PWBA Bowling USBC Queen's. From Detroit. (Live) CC				Boxing Wednesday Night Fights. Joel Julio vs. Ishe Smith. From Vancouver.				Boxing: 1998 Gatti vs. Robinson	
	CSN	SportsNite CC	SportsNite CC	NBA Basketball: Eastern Conference First Round Game 5 -- Wizards at Cavaliers					SportsNite CC	SportsNite (S Live) CC		Washington Post Live	
NEWS	CNN	(4:00) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight CC		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live CC		Anderson Cooper 360 CC			
	FNC	Special Report CC		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor CC		Hannity & Colmes CC		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Race for White House-David Gregory		Hardball CC		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Verdict With Dan Abrams		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		MSNBC Investigates	
MOVIES	AMC	(5:45) ★★★ "The Shootist" (1976, Western) John Wayne. 'PG' CC				★★ "Hang 'Em High" (1968, Western) Clint Eastwood, Inger Stevens, Ed Begley. 'PG-13' CC					★★★ "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" (1967) 'R' CC		
	TCM	★★ "Boots Malone" (1952, Drama) William Holden, Johnny Stewart. 'NR'				★★★ "Union Depot" (1932) 'NR'		(:15) ★★★ "Union Station" (1950) William Holden. 'NR'			(:45) ★★★ "Grand Central Murder" (1942) Van Heflin.		
	HBO	(5:00) The Return	Costas NOW CC			The Sopranos "The Blue Comet"		The Sopranos "Made in America"		Real Time With Bill Maher CC		★★★ "28 Weeks Later" (2007) 'R'	
	MAX	(5:50) ★★ "Miami Vice" (2006, Crime Drama) Colin Farrell. 'R' CC				★★ "Sprung" (1997, Comedy) Tisha Campbell, Rusty Cundieff. 'R' CC				★ "The Reaping" (2007) Hilary Swank. 'R' CC			(:40) Kinky Kong
	SHOW	(5:30) ★★ "Flyboys" (2006, Historical Drama) James Franco. ITV. 'PG-13'				The Tudors (ITV) CC		★★ "Lucky Number Slevin" (2006) Josh Hartnett. ITV. 'R' CC				John Witherspoon	
	TMC	(:15) ★★ "The Pink Panther" (2006, Comedy) Steve Martin. 'PG' CC				★★★ "Mission: Impossible III" (2006, Action) Tom Cruise. 'PG-13' CC				(:05) ★★★ "World Trade Center" (2006) Nicolas Cage. 'PG-13' CC			
	STARZ!	(5:10) Stay Alive	(:45) ★★★ "Surf's Up" (2007) Voices of Shia LaBeouf. 'PG' CC				(:20) ★ "Wild Hogs" (2007) Tim Allen. 'PG-13' CC			Head Case CC	Hollywd Res.	Head Case CC	Hollywd Res.
	ENCORE	(:15) ★★ "Captain Ron" (1992, Comedy) Kurt Russell. 'PG-13' CC				★★ "Fear" (1996) Mark Wahlberg. 'R' CC			(:40) ★★ "Commando" (1985) Arnold Schwarzenegger.			(:15) "Big Trouble in Little China"	

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For detailed instructions go to http://www.djs.state.md.us. EOE.

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Arlington, Virginia 22203

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JOBS

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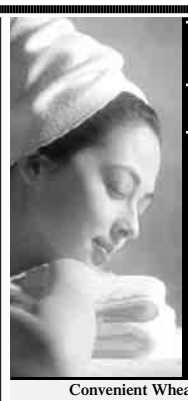

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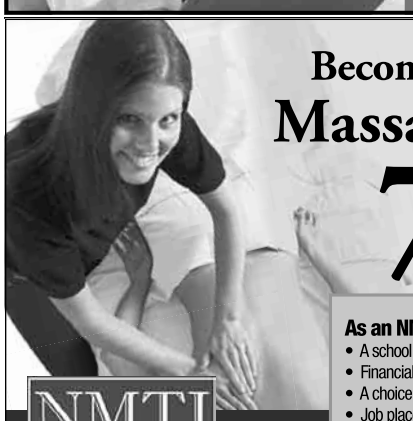

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BMW 2006 530 — xi, $37500 obo, Excellent cond, 11k mi, Beige int, Blue ext, 4 dr, Htd Seats, 202-265-3238

Chevy Alumina 1994 LS - Auto, Family Mini Van, V6, look/runs great, 117k mls, **$1500 firm, 202-744-7187**

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202-714-9835

Porsche 1994 911 — Carrera 2, $25000, Excellent cond, 70k mi, Gray int, Raspberry metallic ext, 2 dr, Lthr Int, alloy wheels, Sunrf, 301-328-0249

Porsche 1974 914 — $1000 obo, Needs-Restoration cond, 56k mi, Black int, White ext, 2 dr, Lthr Int, Manual, 202-829-3193

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Look out

TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Brangelina alight on the Riviera | 38

Styles: The gal who made e-tail hip | 35

Discussions: Miley's effect on children | 36

DOOGIE HOWSERS: Students perform "surgery" on a banana in Jersey City, N.J.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DERER/AP

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY: Visitors at New Jersey's Liberty Science Center get a hands-on lesson in human anatomy.

Experiments in Learning

Education

Museums get kids interested in science outside the classroom

Three or four times per day, a banana shows up at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., and complains about a pain in its side. And that means it's time for some visiting kids to dress up like surgeons and scrub nurses, take a scalpel and go to work.

That's the cover story, anyway.

What's really happening is that kids are learning about science and enjoying it.

Whether there is a long-lasting payoff in future scientists won't be known for a long time. But science educator Lisa Silverman is doing her best with her underage surgical team and the wide-eyed young audience watching them.

"Can everybody say the word 'autoclave?'" Silverman asked the other day while holding up some surgical instruments. "That's a fancy word for an oven-dishwasher that goes at a very high temperature and actually kills the germs."

As she guided the children through the operation, she wove in lessons about surgery, the roles of operating room staff and the kinds of schooling her young audience would need to get those jobs.

To education experts, this is "informal" or "free-choice" science learning, which means it's happening outside of school.

This summer, the National Academies, a congressionally chartered nonprofit group that advises the federal government, will release a report on what's known about the learning of science in such informal settings. That includes not only museums but also such places as zoos and aquariums.

The report comes as experts bemoan a lack of scientific education and literacy among Americans. They warn of a shortfall in homegrown engineers and scientists to keep the nation competitive and a citizenry struggling to grasp complex public issues like stem cell research.

While that has led to calls for changes in schools, science museums can also play a big role in teaching and promoting science to both children and adults, experts say.

Studies are showing that such institutions stimulate interest, awareness, knowledge and understanding, said David Ucko, an expert on informal learning at the National Science Foundation, which requested this summer's study.

"They're very useful," said Gerry Wheeler, executive director of the National Science Teachers Association. "They're a valuable resource for making nature real to the young, hungry mind." MALCOLM RITTER (AP)

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LOOK out

New Deal Is History

Americana

The Depression-era project started in '33 is largely forgotten

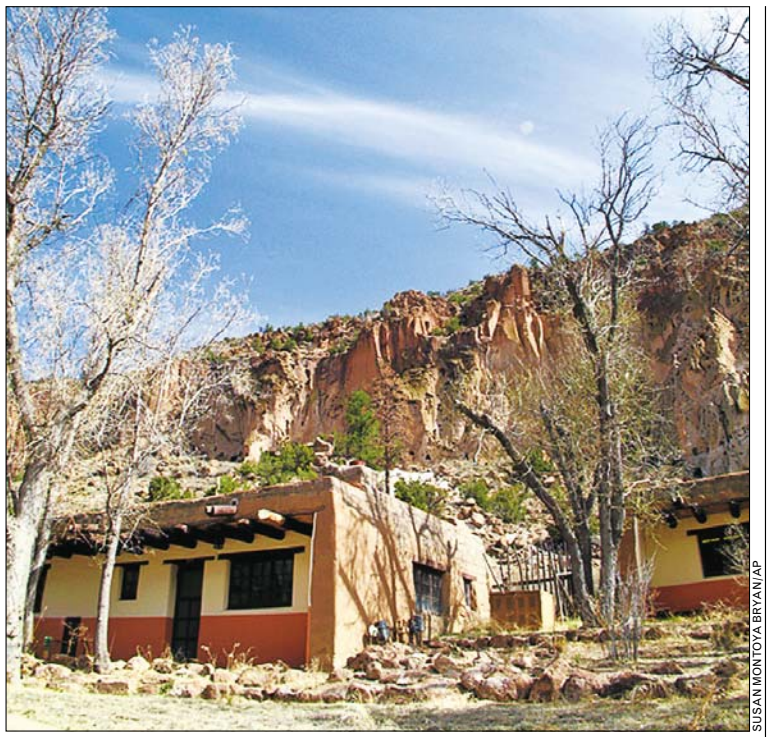
In Frijoles Canyon, history is written on cave ceilings, in etchings on rock walls, in the crumbling remains of cliffside dwellings.

It's an archaeological treasure trove in a stunning wilderness setting, a peek into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who were here centuries ago.

The canyon, though, offers a newer history lesson as well.

The handsome stone visitors center and about 30 other structures — as well as the road that snakes down into the monument from the mesa top — are all part of the legacy of the New Deal.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the start of the massive Depression-era effort fueled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's determination that hungry Americans be put to work.



SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN/AP

The cabins at New Mexico's Bandelier National Monument were New Deal works.

Over the course of a decade or so, millions of people took part in an alphabet soup of federal programs. They planted trees; created parks and zoos; wrote plays; recorded histories; painted; took photographs; and built highways, bridges, dams, courthouses, schools and stadiums.

> "Never in America has so much been built for so many in so little time — and been so thoroughly forgotten."
>
> **BOB LEIGHNINGER**, NEW DEAL EXPERT

Entire communities were built from scratch.

"We literally transformed America," said Christopher Breiseth, head of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y., on the grounds of Roosevelt's home. "In the beginning, '33, only 10 percent of rural America had electricity. By 1945, when [Roosevelt] died, 90 percent of rural America had electricity."

The nationwide building frenzy gave the United States such landmarks as New York's Triborough Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel, Virginia's Skyline Drive, the San Antonio River Walk, San Francisco's Cow Palace, the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys and Hoover Dam on the Nevada-Arizona border.

Countless other, smaller projects have become part of the fabric of American communities, many of them now largely unnoticed.

"Never in America has so much been built for so many in so little time — and been so thoroughly forgotten," said sociologist and historian Bob Leighninger of Arizona State University, author of two books on New Deal buildings.

In some cases, the improvements are out of sight, such as sewer systems, Leighninger suggests. Many structures aren't marked. And buildings didn't have a uniform "New Deal" architectural style, but instead reflected their communities, so they don't particularly stand out.

Leighninger also attributes the amnesia to the political philosophy that has grown up over the last quarter-century that the federal government "can do no right."

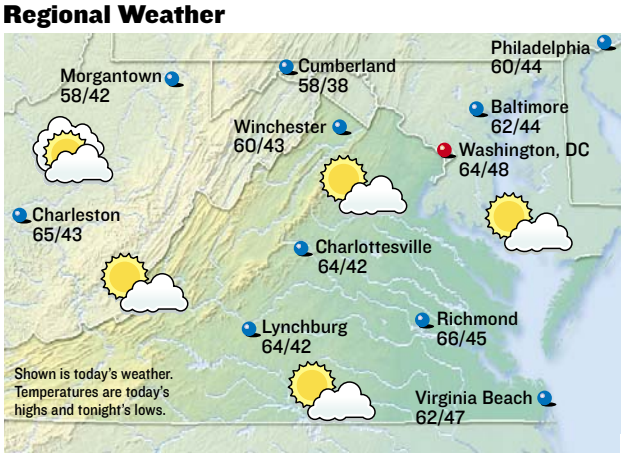
"And so we're not looking around for things they did right," he said. "We're inclined to deprecate that and ignore it."

Breiseth agrees that the New Deal heritage has been all but lost. "Part of it is that Americans, I think, have typically looked to the future. I think we take our past very casually," he said. DEBORAH BAKER (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly sunny	Partly cloudy, shower late	Partly sunny	Partly sunny, warm	Mostly cloudy, showers at night	Partly sunny, shower possible
64°	48°	71° / 57°	77° / 60°	70° / 55°	66° / 51°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2008

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues.

Temperature

High	62°
Low	51°
Normal high	70°
Normal low	50°
Average humidity	54%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.04"
Month to date	4.92"
Normal month to date	2.67"
Year to date	13.26"
Last year to date	12.04"
Normal year to date	12.22"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

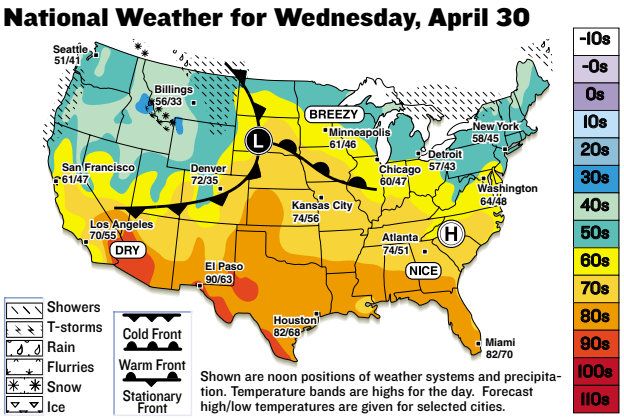
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, cool. High 64. Wind west-northwest 6-12 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, shower late. Low 48.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:11 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:00 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:20 a.m.
Moonset today	2:39 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
May 5	May 11	May 19	May 27

National Weather for Wednesday, April 30



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	74/51/s	77/58/pc
Boston	55/40/pc	58/42/c
Chicago	60/47/pc	69/52/pc
Dallas	82/67/s	82/62/pc
Denver	72/35/pc	46/31/sn
Honolulu	85/72/pc	86/72/pc
Los Angeles	70/55/pc	72/55/pc
Miami	82/70/pc	82/72/s
New York City	58/45/pc	61/50/r
Orlando	80/58/s	84/63/s
Seattle	51/41/sh	56/44/pc

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	61/45/sh	58/47/pc
Athens	68/57/pc	72/59/pc
Berlin	68/50/pc	61/46/r
Buenos Aires	63/43/s	66/50/pc
Calgary	44/34/c	38/29/c
Dublin	54/39/sh	54/41/r
Geneva	54/44/r	62/45/c
Moscow	63/41/pc	61/43/r
Rome	68/52/pc	73/50/s
Sydney	66/53/pc	65/53/pc
Tokyo	74/59/s	74/61/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Styles | Look out

KIRK MCKOY/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Net-a-Porter.com founder Natalie Massenet says Los Angeles is the second-biggest market in the U.S. for her site simply because it's "paparazzi-free shopping."

Retail Rebel

Net-a-Porter.com founder gets hip fashion to you fast

Even in gray London, Los Angeles native Natalie Massenet has carved out a bit of sunlight for her Net-a-Porter.com offices — tucking them under the glass dome of Whiteley's shopping center. It's poetic this online fashion queen has her offices in a bricks-and-mortar retail relic named after William Whiteley, who opened one of London's first department stores in 1863.

He was as much a visionary in his day as Massenet is in hers. The former fashion editor has been challenging the rules of retail since she launched her Web site in June 2000, starting by convincing fashion brands that the Internet was about more than discounting, and that $1,500 handbags really would sell online.

Massenet shortened the time it takes for a dress to travel from the runway to your closet.

Massenet did this and more, bringing 200 brands to her online store. She distinguished her site by focusing on packaging and customer service, with same-day delivery available in London and New York.

Beyond creating an impressive site, she reinvented the way we shop. Massenet paved the way for luxury online, and now nearly all designers have e-tail sites, including Marni and Stella McCartney. She also proved to shoppers that buying clothing online could be easy.

At Net-a-Porter, each garment has notes about size and fit, including exact measurements, a practice other stores are replicating.

Although Massenet is a front-row fixture at the runway shows, she's less a fashion creature of the editor in chief variety than she is a businesswoman. She is quiet and firm, and generally dresses conservatively.

Net-a-Porter was started with $1 million, and, after eight years, business is booming. In 2006, the site had revenue of $73.9 million.

Now that the Internet has come of age, runway photos travel around the world at lightning speed, and copies of garments land in stores before the designer originals. Earlier this year, Massenet shortened the time it takes for a dress to travel from the runway to your closet from six months to 48 hours, when she struck a deal with Halston to sell two looks from the fall collection the day after the show on Net-a-Porter. It sold out in 45 minutes.

"The fashion cycle is outdated," Massenet says. "In the last five years, the consumer is more educated than ever. She gets to see the runway shows at the same time as the buyers and the editors, yet we are still treating her as if she hasn't seen them — telling her what's happened and making her wait six months to buy it in the stores. We're telling her it's all about pointy-toed shoes next season, when what's in the stores now is round-toed shoes.

"You can't tell the customer that it's about two different things. She'll skip the round toe and go straight to the pointy toe, because that's what's coming next."

BOOTH MOORE (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Skin Care

Get Your Oil On

What is argan oil? According to the New York Times, it's "one of the latest miracle ingredients in the beauty industry." People in Morocco rub it on everything, including, babies, says the Times. Now you can, too. Kiehl's is hawking a cocktail of oils, which includes argan, as **SUPERBLY RESTORATIVE DRY OIL** ($30, Kiehls.com). Ignore the "dry" part — it's definitely liquid. The instructions say to put it in your hair and/or body; we did this, and then we were oily, something we are not accustomed to being when clean. A less concentrated but more user-friendly choice is the **SUPERBLY RESTORATIVE BODY LOTION** ($35) — you get the argan, but in a nice, citrus-y base.

HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

Fragrance

A Rose Is a Rose Is Pot

April 20 has come and gone, but you can still celebrate its patron herb, legally. **FRESH CANNABIS ROSE** perfume ($75, Fresh.com) smells like roses, not pot. It's a darker scent that makes us think of Miss Havisham's overgrown garden. So, go ahead — inhale. And while the bath and shower gel ($28) may raise some eyebrows, we'll have you know that cannabis seed oil is known for its nourishing properties. Plus, you won't even have to put a towel under the bathroom door. STEPHANIE JONES

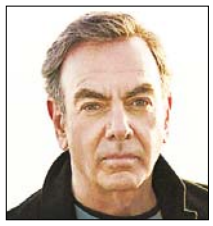
Look out Online

readexpress.com

site specifics

'AMERICAN IDOL'

On Bended Neil



The contestants on "American Idol" took on the songs of Neil Diamond on Tuesday, and good times never seemed so good. Except when they, well, weren't. Which hopeful had the way to groove us? Greg Barber has a recap. And be sure to tune in for his live chat at 11 a.m. at Readexpress.com/idol. | COMING UP

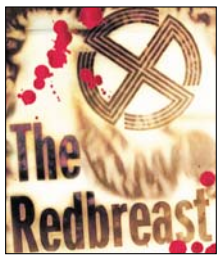
ENTERTAINMENT

Strings Attached

What do good old Southern bluegrass and West African beats have in common? Plenty, says Nat Keefe, the guitarist for Hot Buttered Rum. Keefe talked with Rudi Greenberg about Ghana, the Grateful Dead and his band's upcoming State Theatre gig. | COMING UP

BOOKS

International Intrigue



Jo Nesbø's "The Redbreast" was named the best Norwegian crime novel ever, potentially pitting his work against that of a Nordic literary giant: Henrik Ibsen. Christopher Porter talked to Nesbø, who reads at Bridge Street Books Wednesday. | COMING UP

comment board

"It shouldn't — after all, nobody's blinking about John McCain soliciting an endorsement from two hateful preachers, John Hagee and Rod Parsley."

COMMENTER VEGGIETART, WHO ADDED, "UNFORTUNATELY, IT WILL PROBABLY HURT OBAMA. NICE GOING, REVEREND."

"He is the undoing of [Obama's] campaign. Could his timing be any better to undo all that Obama has accomplished?"

COMMENTER CATRINA, WHO ADDED, "I'M UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOOD REVEREND IS ON THE CLINTONS' PAYROLL."

"His remarks will only have an impact if you are looking for an excuse not to vote for Obama. I am voting for what the man stands for and not what his ex-pastor says."

COMMENTER FRANK, RESPONDING TO TUESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "WILL THE REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT BE THE UNDOING OF BARACK OBAMA'S CAMPAIGN?"

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

WILL THE REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT BE THE UNDOING OF BARACK OBAMA'S CAMPAIGN?

53% YES

47% NO

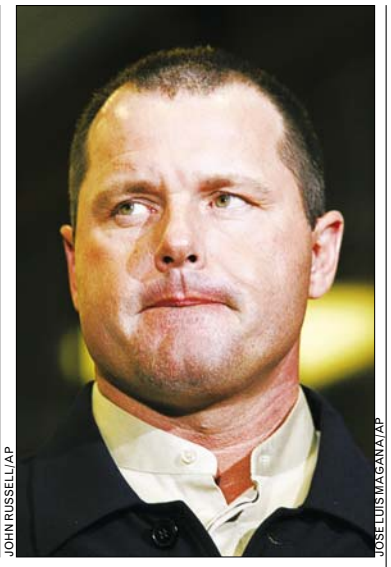
SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP

Blog LOG

"I just think there are more important things to worry about than whether Miley Cyrus is starting to enter a Dana Plato phase."

BLOG.URBANBOHEMIAN.COM DOES NOT CONSIDER THE MILEY CYRUS VANITY FAIR PHOTO SHOOT FLAP A BIG DEAL COMPARED TO THE LIFE OF THE FORMER "DIFF'RENT STROKES" STAR.

JOHN RUSSELL/AP



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

"[On Tuesday], [Mindy] McCready joined the growing list of people to note that Clemens' pants are, indeed, on fire."

WITHLEATHER.COM DOES NOT HAVE MUCH SYMPATHY FOR ROGER CLEMENS, WHO WAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO HAVE HAD A 10-YEAR RELATIONSHIP WITH FORMER COUNTRY SINGER MINDY MCCREADY.

"TRAVEL IN URBAN AREAS by bicycle is often the fastest and most efficient way to travel. This has been my experience for years as a bike commuter. It's always faster than transit and often faster than cars, especially during rush hour."

COMMUTERPAGEBLOG.COM SWEARS BY THE TWO-WHEELED TYPE OF TRAVEL.

"AS A PARENT, YOU WILL do more laundry than a convicted felon and you won't even get the 15 cents per hour for cigarettes."

RUDECACTUS.COM RELAYS ADVICE TO A CO-WORKER WHO OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION BETWEEN COLLEAGUES ABOUT LIFE CHANGES AFTER HAVING KIDS.

"WHEN I SAW THIS HEADLINE on [washingtonpost.com] ("Mars Buying Wrigley for $23B"), I thought the planet was buying the stadium. Which is crazy, I realize. Because everyone knows the Martians are football fans, right?"

LUMPYHEAD.BLOGSPOT.COM HAD A MOMENT OF CONFUSION WHEN HEARING ABOUT THE CANDY COMPANY BUYOUT.

Discussions

Cyrus VF Photos

SHARON LAMB, psychology professor at Saint Michael's College, was online Tuesday to discuss the psychological effects of controversial photos of Miley Cyrus in Vanity Fair on young girls who consider pop stars role models.

Why is this news? With Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears, Jamie Lynn Spears, etc., why the hype over this particular photo?

Is there something in our culture that wants to bring her down? I mean, she's a 15-year-old girl who, of course, is looking to understand what it means to grow up sexually in this culture today, and that might mean some mistakes with boyfriends or even bra-flashing as a kind of joke. What's different about this is what seems to be a kind of exploitation, I think.

I agree the blame lies with her parents/packagers, not her. But blame also needs to be assigned to the editor and publisher of Vanity Fair for their irresponsible editorial decision to publish the photos.

I do agree. We can't keep saying that anyone can do anything to make a buck. Someone has to take some social responsibility and think about the greater community.

Doesn't this go beyond what the entertainment industry foists upon us? I think it's much more repulsive that parents dress their 6-year-olds up and enter them in "beauty contests."

Yes and no. Parents certainly have responsibility to watch out for their little girls, but parents can also be fighting a losing battle when we look at how much media from all directions sell this version of the hot sexy diva teen (see Bratz dolls, too) to little girls and tell them that to assume this persona is empowerment.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Washington Post soccer writer Steven Goff chats about D.C. United and other soccer topics at 1 p.m. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

DO

TAKE A FREE RIDE, VIRGINIANS. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission will offer free rides Wednesday on all Northern Virginia bus routes, including Metrobus. The rides are meant to encourage commuters to use mass transit and reduce air pollution, and will be offered on code-red air days.

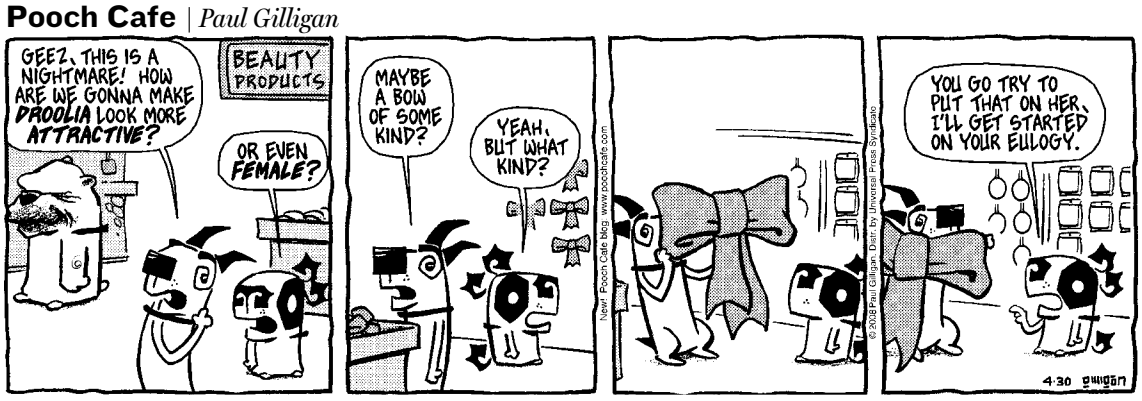
Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

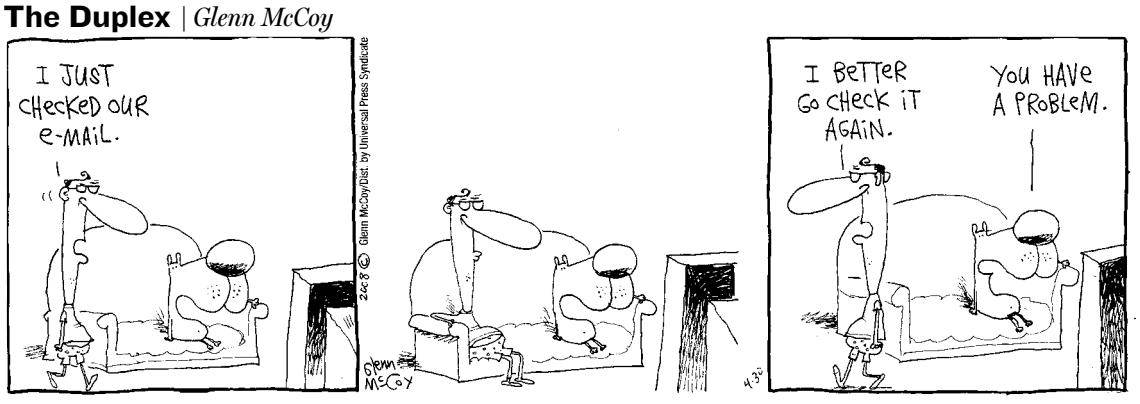
"I can dish it out, but I can't take it."

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*



Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*

The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Keep up the good work, and try to maintain a faster pace than usual. Your concentration and commitment are sure to be rewarded in time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can help others in need—and help yourself in the process. Your spirit is in need of something a little more inspiring, uplifting.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may encounter a great deal of personal pressure, and those who are trying to be most persuasive have a valid reason to win your favor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your intuition is keen, and you'll have a sense of predestination as a result. There is no need at this time to change your current course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Anyone you meet may be the one, so you don't want to discount someone merely because of something superficial.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It's your turn to do more for others than you do for yourself. In the end, you can surely derive great satisfaction from your own generosity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Play your cards right and you'll surely find yourself in exactly the position you had been hoping for, personally or professionally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) That which appears most favorable to you may actually bring with it unusual risk. You'll want to look beneath the surface for the truth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) While others are working on the here and now, you'll have the chance to begin planning for the future in practical, definite terms.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You can wring some serious benefits out of a situation that seems to carry with it nothing but negatives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Concentrate on financial issues, and do what you can to protect your property in and around the home. You can avoid losses on any front.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you feel you've been going at full steam lately, today will give you the chance to slow down a bit. A more relaxed pace is favored now.

Letters

Wright Is Wrong on Race

THE REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT is the Rev. Wrong ("Wright Affirms Remarks," April 29). Initially, I thought the media had somehow been unfair to Wright by airing snippets of sermons instead of playing them in their entirety. Then, for the pastor to recently say that media attacks aimed at him are somehow against the "black church" is crazy. Just like Barack Obama, black ministers and black people in general have found themselves in a position of defending and defining their religious values because of Wright's mouth.

—SHARON FOSTER
Alexandria, Va.

Corrections:

An item in Tuesday's People section said an exhibit of James Brown memorabilia will be at South Carolina State University in Charleston, S.C. The school is in Orangeburg, S.C. Also, a photo in the Trailblazer column in Fit attributed a photo to Matt Scott Baker. It was provided by Thom Ward.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1789 George Washington takes office in New York as the first president of the United States.

1803 The United States purchases the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about $15 million.

1945 As Russian troops approach his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler commits suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

1958 The American Association of Retired Persons (later simply AARP) is founded by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

1973 President Nixon announces the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, along with Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

PostPoints DAILY CODE OL

Look out | People

KELSEY MCNEAL/ABC

Cramps: silly-sounding but serious.

PITHY

Item Too Short to Contain Any Detail

Chilean soap star **CRISTIAN DE LA FUENTE** suffered a severe muscle cramp in his left forearm while performing on Monday night's "Dancing With the Stars." (AP)

PUNISHMENT

DUI a Major Inconvenience

Rocker **SCOTT WEILAND** has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor drunken-driving charge and was sentenced to eight days in jail Monday. He was sentenced to four years' probation and must take part in an alcohol program. (AP)

EVAN AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES

FAMILY

France Is Chosen

BRAD PITT, **ANGELINA JOLIE** and their four children are in Saint Jean Cap Ferrat at the Riviera home of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, E! reported. "They love France and will now be here until after the babies are born and Angie is looking at Marseille hospitals as a potential place to give birth," an "insider" told E! (EXPRESS)

LITIGATION

Hindsight Once You're Famous Is 20/20

Look at this photo. Now, don't you want to shower?

The call girl linked to the downfall of former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer sued **JOE FRANCIS**, founder of the "Girls Gone Wild" series, on Monday for $10 million, claiming he exploited her image and name to advertise the racy videos following the Spitzer debacle. Ashley Dupre, 22, contended in the lawsuit that she was only 17 — too young to sign legally binding contracts — and drunk when she agreed to be filmed for "Girls Gone Wild." Dupre "did not understand the magnitude of her actions, nor that her image and likeness would be displayed in videos and DVDs," says the lawsuit. (AP)

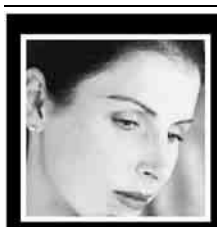
EMBARRASSING

Statute of Limitations on Homemade Porn Finally Up

Vivid Entertainment is releasing a sex tape allegedly starring **JIMI HENDRIX**. The adult entertainment company said they obtained the footage of the music legend shot in a hotel room about 40 years ago from a memorabilia collector. The footage features Hendrix engaging in various acts with two women, according to Vivid. The company said they consulted with several experts to authenticate the footage. (AP)

AP

Vintage porn is retro, not sleazy.



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http://www.patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov or http://clinicaltrials.gov

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Look out

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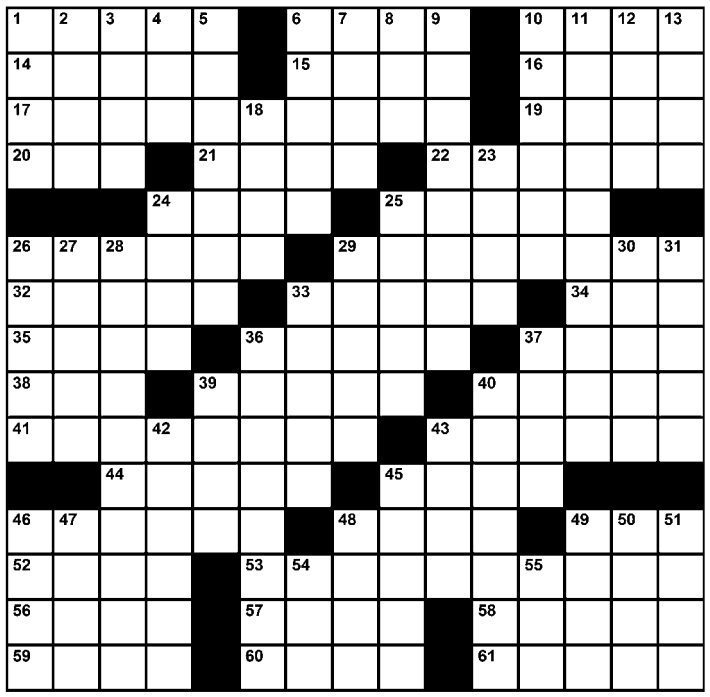
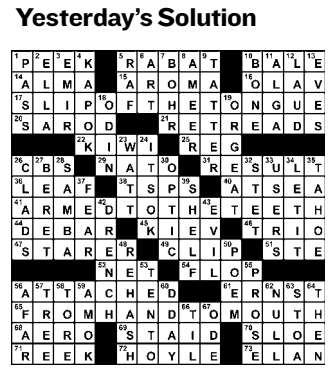
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER



ACROSS
1 Music lover's collection
6 Sunday whisper or shout
10 Inspirational tennis champ
14 Opposite of cathode
15 Better for the nosher
16 "Saint Joan" playwright
17 Certain audition
19 Without question
20 Deerstalker, for one
21 "These Are the Special Times" singer
22 Drops a line
24 New York team
25 One who's done for
26 Garden shelters
29 Phone part
32 Quite a distance
33 Smelling things?
34 Avg., size-wise
35 Wicked
36 Abandon
37 Provider of a one-way ride
38 TV attorney Matlock
39 Part of Argentina's capital
40 TiVo feature
41 Thumbelina's creator
43 Financial report column
44 Make parallel
45 Some pantry fillers
46 River immortalized by Smetana
48 Snatches
49 Celebrity mother of twins, informally
52 Stylish magazine
53 Summer havens
56 Futurist of a sort
57 Board at the track
58 Art mart buy, perhaps
59 Szechwan sauces
60 "You missed a ___!"
61 Back-to-the-past style

DOWN
1 Morse code T
2 Peruvian of yore
3 Work in the mail room
4 Start of a musical scale
5 Sowing machines
6 Some harmonizers
7 Bearing
8 Brief strangers?
9 Financial statement figure
10 Birthplace of a saint
11 One who has no trouble developing?
12 Snowshoe rabbit, for one
13 They often get fleeced
18 Immature parasites
23 Speaks ill of
24 One of the filmmaking Coens
25 Rash treatments
26 Bio 101 subject (Var.)
27 Split
28 Dead end
29 Put down the hatch
30 Desist partner
31 Bittern relative
33 Seductress
36 Turns one's stomach
37 Small fry
39 Tenor's moment
40 Witty word whiz
42 Those who deserve respect
43 Porcine star of 1998
45 West Pointer
46 Barracks break
47 Toast topper
48 U.S./European force
49 Be less than serious
50 Offensive expression
51 Site of Norway's Parliament
54 Short flight
55 Fictional union activist Norma ___ Webster

Yesterday's Solution



SUDOKU | MEDIUM

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Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

		3					8	7
			6	4				
				1		9		6
	3	4					9	
1		9				7		4
	6					2	1	
4		8		9				
				2	5			
2	9					1		

Yesterday's Solution

4	6	9	1	7	3	2	8	5
1	7	3	8	2	5	6	4	9
8	2	5	6	4	9	3	1	7
6	5	2	3	1	4	7	9	8
3	8	7	5	9	6	4	2	1
9	4	1	2	8	7	5	3	6
5	9	6	4	3	1	8	7	2
7	3	8	9	6	2	1	5	4
2	1	4	7	5	8	9	6	3

express

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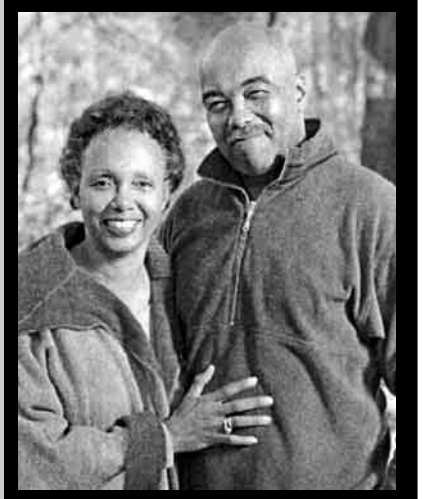

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BUYER'S GUIDE
home
express | How to purchase a house or condominium in today's market.

Aisle Be There: Some ambitious couples plan weddings and buy homes the same year E6

LAWRENCE LUK

Even though some pros claim we're in a buyer's market, Jennifer and Casey Kaleba are still renting a house in Hyattsville because, as Jennifer says, "Starter homes no longer come with starter-home prices."

Stake a Claim?

Buyers, renters and real estate agents debate plunging into the market

IF IT'S A BUYER'S MARKET right now, what's with all the "For Sale" signs swinging in your neighborhood? And if you're thinking of selling, is this really the worst time since the Great Depression to be calling a real estate agent?

Even seasoned real-estate buyers and sellers are feeling edgy and unsure in the gloom of

CONTINUED ON E2

"I'M AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN. I'M SUCCESSFUL. IF I BUY A HOME ON MY OWN, WILL MEN SEE ME AS SOMEONE THEY WANT TO PARTNER WITH?" E10

HomeBuyer'sGuide

Changing Market

CONTINUED FROM E1

the current housing climate.

Shrieking headlines about condo prices in free fall and the subprime mortgage crisis pepper the Web and newspapers every day, only amplifying the chatter of everyone from your open-house obsessed Starbucks barrista to well-meaning relatives who keep telling you to quit renting already. So, what are you supposed to do in this crazy market? Buy? Sell? Pitch a tent somewhere near the Washington Monument and wait it out?

Agents and sellers who have managed to move a piece of property in recent months say that selling now revolves around two key factors: pricing your home accurately for the market, and making it shine in a sea of competitors.

Ahem, that means clearing out the magazine piles, putting into storage that overstuffed chair you love that — let's face it — slashes your living room's actual living area in half, and, in general, de-personalizing your home so a potential buyer can imagine his or her stuff in it.

LAWRENCE LUK

Real estate agent Colin Concannon warns sellers and buyers that properties can be for sale for months in this market.

"You have to make the place really sparkle," says Michael Tubbs, an agent with Coldwell Banker on Capitol Hill. "First impressions are so important in a competitive market. Staging"— the process of artfully arranging your own or rented furniture and decor in a home to make it look ultra-appealing —"is more important than ever." Even basic upkeep like washing windows or applying a fresh coat of paint can go a long way these days.

Pricing is the other critical piece in the current crowded market. And the field is packed with competition: According to data from the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors, there are more than 1,500 condo or co-op units in D.C. alone on the market as of the end of March (the most recent month for which figures are available) and about 1,600 single-family homes in the city. In just Montgomery County, about 4,374 single-fam-

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ily homes were clogging inventory as of March.

"Pricing properly now means that you need to be either the No. 1 or 2 lowest-priced home in your marketplace," says Ann D'Ambrosia, senior vice president at the GMAC Real Estate Service Center in Largo, Md. "Buyers determine the value. Price, matched with the condition [of the property], is the only issue in this market."

Especially when so many properties are for sale, people who choose not to snag a pad often hear about how they're missing out on a rare opportunity to jump into real estate during a buyer's market.

Jennifer Kaleba, director of communications at Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Northwest D.C., gets periodic nudges from home-owning friends and relatives. But she says she and her husband have chosen to continue to rent for several carefully considered reasons.

"Starter homes no longer come with starter-home prices," she says. "Everyone and their mother is lecturing you that buying now 'makes more sense.' But sometimes, the numbers don't make sense at all."

Kaleba, 30, and her husband, Casey Kaleba, 29, who is working on a doctorate in theater at the University of Maryland, rent a house in Hyattsville, Md., located about "one-and-a-half songs on the iPod" away from the Metro stop there.

"When we first moved in, there was this big green space nearby," says Jennifer. "But about a year and a half ago, all these condos starting coming in" to fill it, which she attributes partly to spillover from the revitalization that has rolled through nearby Silver Spring. As a consequence, housing prices in the area have risen quickly. "We'll say to each other now, 'Well, we couldn't have afforded to buy anyway,'" says Jennifer.

Even in this flat or declining market, the couple stands by their decision to keep renting. "Yes, I'm an adult, and I need to make this investment sometime," she says. "But do we want to be eating ramen every day" to be able to swing a monthly mortgage payment?" Both of them say they're comfortable paying rent to invest in "our quality of life, not in property," as she puts it.

Software programmer Mike Lee and his family are also choosing not to purchase in the D.C. area. Lee, and his physician wife, who have three children, rent a house in Earlysville, Va., near Charlottesville. While her job is expected to bring the family to Bethesda later this year, other potential relocations inherent in her work — coupled with the state of the local market — give them both pause when the prospect of buying a home in the D.C. area comes up.

LAWRENCE LUK

ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD, NO RAMEN NECESSARY: Jennifer and Casey Kaleba continue to rent a house in Hyattsville because they think buying would be too expensive.

"It makes you sit back and think, 'Is this really a good time to buy?'" says Lee, 39, who managed to sell a house in another tough market—San Antonio, Texas —before moving to Virginia. Ultimately, both he and his wife agree that "the known risk of renting is more tolerable than the unknown risk of buying."

Richard Green, professor of economics at George Washington University and director of its Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis, blogs about real-estate trends at Real-estate-and-urban.blogspots.com. His advice to those considering buying a roof to put over their head: Rather than panic about the market's wild gyrations, consider your monthly income and that of your spouse or partner, if applicable. "If you can own without it costing much more than renting on a cash flow basis, it is a smart thing for first-time buyers to do," Green says. "If not, you should wait."

> **"If you can own without it costing much more than renting, it is a smart thing for first-time buyers to do."**
>
> **RICHARD GREEN**, ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Sure, there are plenty of buyers for whom the real-estate world is said to be at their feet. Folks like Sharon Bibee, who snagged a condo in Shirlington in July, say that careful research about the market plus a patient real estate agent who explained all elements of the transaction paid off in a big way: She got her dream condo.

"I really felt like it was a fairly good deal," says Bibee, 40, of the two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit with a parking spot for which she paid $370,000. "I'd been looking for a while, and this is one of the first places I had seen back when I was only looking half-heartedly."

Bibee, who works for the federal government, says she would compare every condo she saw subsequently to the one she ultimately purchased. "It has the granite counter tops and the tile floor and the building amenities I wanted," she says. "Other places I saw I didn't like nearly as well, plus the [monthly condo] fees were the same or outrageous, sometimes $700 per month." Bibee's current fee is just over $400.

She gives props to her agent, Colin Concannon of Green Dot Realty in Fairfax City, for being supportive during her first real estate purchase. "When you start thinking about how much money you are spending and how stressful the process is, it's easy to get overwhelmed, but he guided me through," she says. "I felt like he was someone I could trust."

Concannon, whose brokerage deals largely in "distressed properties" — aka bank-owned houses that have been foreclosed upon — takes the long view when it comes to coping with a down market.

"You have to look at what this [greater D.C.] area has done historically," he says. "Back in the early '90s, we were facing the exact same insanity"— an overheated market followed by a plunge. "Is it really that bad of a market? No, it is a different type of market."

As such, sellers can't get hung up on the fact that they aren't fielding 10 offers in the first three days of listing their property, he explains; it ain't 2005 anymore. "If you are trying to sell your home these days, know that it is not going to happen fast."

Journalist Anjetta McQueen

CONTINUED ON E4

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HomeBuyer'sGuide

ISTOCK PHOTO

A large inventory of homes on the market means buyers have longer to ponder.

Changing Market

CONTINUED FROM E3

knows that all too well. In December, she sold her one-bedroom condo in Kalorama after it languished on the market for nearly a year. Now renting in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, where she relocated for a job, McQueen is circumspect about her experience.

"I bought my place for $330,000 in 2004, and sold it for $310,000," she reports. "As difficult as it was [to lose money], I count myself one of the lucky ones. It's just me; there wasn't a child put out on the street." McQueen, 41, says it was very difficult to compete with the many other condominiums on the market in and around the District — even with hers in such a desirable neighborhood steps from Adams Morgan. The market in Los Angeles is "pretty depressed," she adds, so coupled with the loss she sustained here, paying about $2,000 in monthly rent almost feels good, all things considered.

When a house or condo does sell within weeks — and it does happen, all the agents interviewed for this piece concurred—GMAC's D'Ambrosia says that a few factors almost undoubtedly came into play.

"It was in great shape, it was competitively priced, and the seller was negotiable on terms such as agreeing to pay some or all of the purchaser's closing costs," she says.

Marketing counts, too. "Sellers need to make sure that the agent they choose to sell their home not only has strong pricing skills, but also provides the tools and the services to expose their listing to as many buyers as possible." Many agents, D'Ambrosia contends, lack the right tools for the kind of exposure that a well-priced listing requires now.

Has the real estate market hit bottom? Buyers and real estate professionals aren't sure.

Coldwell Banker's Tubbs points to the paradox with which today's buyer must cope. "On the one hand, it's a very good time to be a buyer, and it might continue to get better," he says. "But some buyers are saying to themselves, 'This is like buying stock. Will this house that's priced now at $450,000 come down to $430,000?'" There's no way to know for sure.

In the face of such ongoing uncertainty, at least one prediction Green made is comforting.

"Long term, I'm bullish," he says. "D.C. is a great city and has unique characteristics that aren't going away soon." AMY ROGERS NAZAROV

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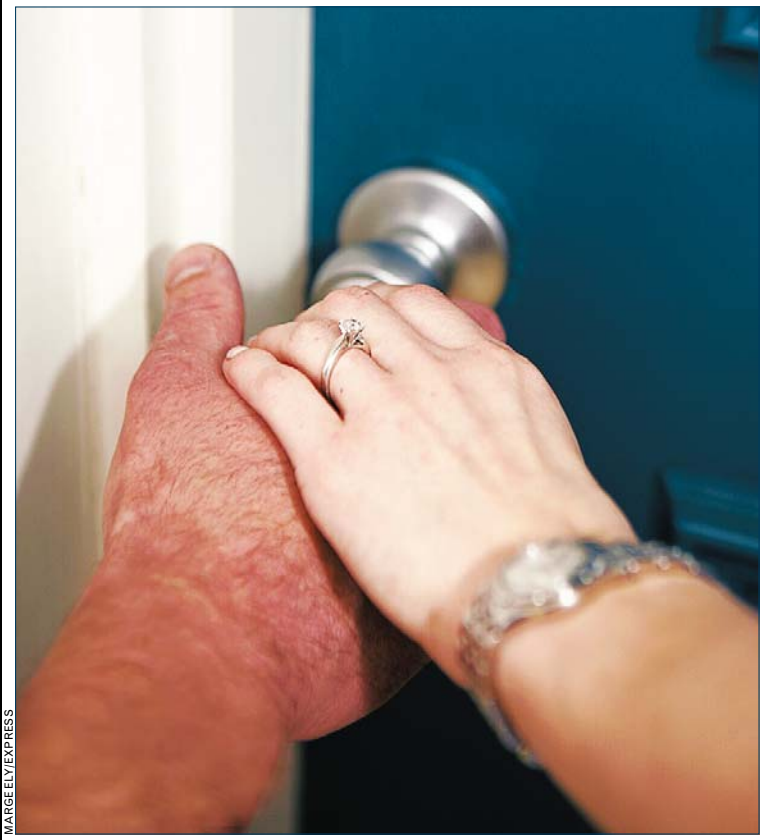
HomeBuyer'sGuide



MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

Is the key to marital happiness lurking behind the threshold of homeownership?

Proposals & Property

Couples often buy a home and get married in the same short period

First comes love, then comes the wedding planner, the reception site reservation, the florist, the bridal showers — and, if you're lucky, a down payment on a sweet condo or bungalow.

For young couples, getting engaged often feels like a sprint through rites of passage, all of which come with giant price tags.

When Mark Helfman, 28, of Burtonsville, Md., proposed to his girlfriend, he knew he wanted to buy a place sometime in the near future, but he wanted to take one step at a time.

"It is impossible to do house hunting and plan a marriage at the same time," Helfman says. "I would get down on both my knees to anyone who can pull it off."

Helfman ultimately bought a townhouse in November with his now-wife, Ilise Helfman, 28, in the Greencastle Lakes community development, four months after they were married in a Jewish ceremony. "Stomping on the glass, saying 'hi' to relatives and eating cake" was nothing compared to signing his name on "800 dotted lines" at the closing, he says.

"Till death do us part?" Breezy. A 30-year mortgage? Daunting.

The median price for a condo in the Washington metro area in 2007 was $294,200, well above the national median price of $226,400, according to the National Association of Realtors. The median sales price for existing single-family homes in the region was $430,000, more than double the national figure.

Looking at those six figures

while trying to plan the most expensive party of your life can be paralyzing.

"It's like ripping the bandage off fast," says Dave Jenks, who co-wrote "Your First Home: The Proven Path to Home Ownership" ($13, McGraw-Hill) with Gary Keller and Jay Papasan.

"But there's some fun in this marriage stress express, too," Jenks says. "There's an advantage. It means that when you then settle in the building together, all the foundational pieces are there. It's not long after you're married that you're inviting the wedding party over to your housewarming and celebrating another event. You're launching your life together."

Last year, one-third of all home-buyers were first-time home-buyers, according to the NAR. The most common age range of home-buyers nationwide last year — 25- to 34-year-olds — coincides exactly with U.S. Census Bureau data on the average age of men and women when they get married for the first time.

Helfman caught a break on getting the nuptials rolling — his future mother-in-law, Wendy Raab, is a wedding planner with Rave Reviews in Kensington, Md.

The most common age to buy a home is between 25 and 34, the average age for getting married.

When the Helfmans went to buy a home, they turned to a professional, as well.

Their real estate agent, Sandy Wills, with W.C. and A.N. Miller — a Long and Foster Company in Maryland — sat them down and explained the buying process.

"I asked them, 'What's your dream house? Do you want a fireplace? Do you want a garage? What areas do you want to live in? How close to work?" Wills says.

Wills encouraged them to pull their credit reports, talk to a mortgage broker and understand the kind of range they should be looking at.

"One of the good things about

CONTINUED ON E8

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CONTINUED FROM E7

waiting until after the wedding was we got a lot of [money] gifts and we were able to use some of that toward our down payment," Helfman says.

Jenks, co-author of "Your First Home," says the Helfmans followed a rule most modern couples know: Get professional assistance.

"In the case of a wedding, you hire a wedding planner. When you're buying your first home, the No. 1 thing you need to do is select a really good first-time buyer real estate agent," he says.

Like the Helfmans, an advantage young couples have is they are forced by circumstances to buy a good deal, Jenks says. In other words, their income usually limits their choices. "When you have more money, people fall in love with places over their heads," he says.

Jenks recommends purchasing at the "sweet spot," about 10 to 20 percent below the median sale price for an area, as an investment.

Even if a mortgage would exceed monthly rent payments, it can pay off because the interest on a mortgage is tax-deductible.

"For most first-time buyers, it's an economical right thing to do," Jenks says.

And for newlyweds, it's a great part of building a partnership, he says. Buying a home together pushes couples to talk about financial issues such as combining bank accounts and splitting mortgage payments — those big-ticket questions couples must navigate.

If Jenks has noticed any trend with first-time home buyers, it's that young couples are buying sooner. "Most people are realizing it's the foundational start of your financial life," he says. "Owning my own home was the best accidental investment I made in my life. You seldom hear people saying, 'We wish we hadn't bought a house.'"

Here's how Robin Rider's fiancé popped the question: "Do you want your house or your ring first?"

The real love story isn't quite so brash and includes a romantic fireside proposal another year down the road. But for Rider, 29, who moonlights as a wedding coordinator with R&R Event Planning, "homeowner" sounded sweeter than "housewife."

"We had saved up some money, and we were tired of paying for this apartment every month," she said. "We had to put our priorities first. I said, 'Let's get the house.'"

Rider and her then-boyfriend, Charlie Shyab, 31, did the whole marriage-mortgage mash-up in reverse.

Nationally, a much larger share of first-time buyers are single individuals and unmarried couples compared with repeat buyers, according to NAR data. Among all groups of buyers, unmarried couples tend to be the youngest, at 32 years old; among first-time buyers, they're even younger at 28.

Rider and Shyab were able to take advantage of a new home-buyer's program and, with their families' support, purchased a home in Mount Airy, Md., last April.

"Charlie's parents offered to give us money for the house, whereas I don't know if they would have for a wedding," she said.

With R&R Event Planning, Rider prides herself on working with the "budget bride."

"If you read the wedding magazines, you can have a favor and a trinket dripping from every corner of the ceiling," Rider said.

Instead she recently pulled off a $7,000 wedding for a couple who hosted their reception at Jammin' Java in Vienna. An edgy coffee bar with an open-mic stage, Jammin' Java is run by young entrepreneurs who were flexible with the bride's requests and even let the family bring some of their own food. Instead of hiring a DJ, the couple loaded an iPod with the songs for the evening and celebrated with a cupcake wedding cake.

"You can plan a wedding for $5,000. I don't think you can buy a house for that much," Rider said.

Rider got engaged in December and is planning a fall wedding in the Outer Banks. She said she's been cautious about what they spend, but by buying a home first, she was able to adjust her wedding budget to her mortgage payments.

"To be honest, if we had gotten married first, we probably would have had a smaller budget," Rider said. "You feel bad spending this money when you know you want to buy a house later."

Buying first came with another bonus: tax returns. "The first year, you're mainly paying interest," Rider said. "We can choose to use that refund to pay for our wed-

MARGEELY/EXPRESS

LOVE, HONOR, CO-PAY: Charlie Shyab and Robin Rider bought a house in Mount Airy, Md., shortly before they got engaged.

TIPS FROM THE HOMEFRONT

What should you consider before plonking down a down payment — or putting your starter home up for sale in today's shifting market? We asked pros and folks who had been there for their ideas. AMY ROGERS NAZAROV

BUYERS

THINK FIVE YEARS OUT

Consider your career aspirations and those of your partner, if you have one. Does at least one of you expect to be relocated, or is at least one of you looking to change jobs? Recognize that homeownership might complicate the picture. Other factors, such as whether you're planning to have children one day, matter, too.

RESIST PEER PRESSURE

Your decision to buy, sell or rent is just that — your decision (and your partner's, if you have one). When your best friend nags you to pull together your down payment now — because there will never be another opportunity quite like this one, and, oh, look at those mortgage rates! — smile benignly and say you appreciate her interest. Then change the subject.

DON'T GO IT ALONE

Sharon Bibee, 40, who bought her first condo in Arlington last year, says she relied on friends for advice and recommendations. "I don't have family in the area, so talking to people I trust" — including her real estate agent, Colin Concannon — helped assuage her anxiety about the sometimes-overwhelming buying process.

SELLERS:

INTERVIEW SEVERAL AGENTS. Remember, you — the buyer — are a hot commodity, so ask colleagues or friends for the names of real estate agents they've worked with and liked, and chat them up. Try to "choose someone who spends a lot of time educating himself or herself about the market," says Ann D'Ambrosia of GMAC Real Estate Service Center in Largo. "The agent you select should be one that understands the current market statistics and has the ability to advise sellers on pricing."

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE CRUCIAL

"A vacant house is really a downer," says Coldwell Banker's Michael Tubbs. De-cluttering, cleaning and possibly staging a furnished place helps to make it "show" better to would-be buyers.

DIVEST YOURSELF EMOTIONALLY

Sure, you think your 650-square-foot Logan Circle studio is divine, but if the buyers aren't booking walk-throughs, pay attention. "If no one is coming through to see it, there's a very good chance it's overpriced," says Concannon. Talk with your agent about adjusting the price accordingly, especially if he doesn't bring it up first (which a good agent probably will) and don't take it personally.

ding — or fix up the house."

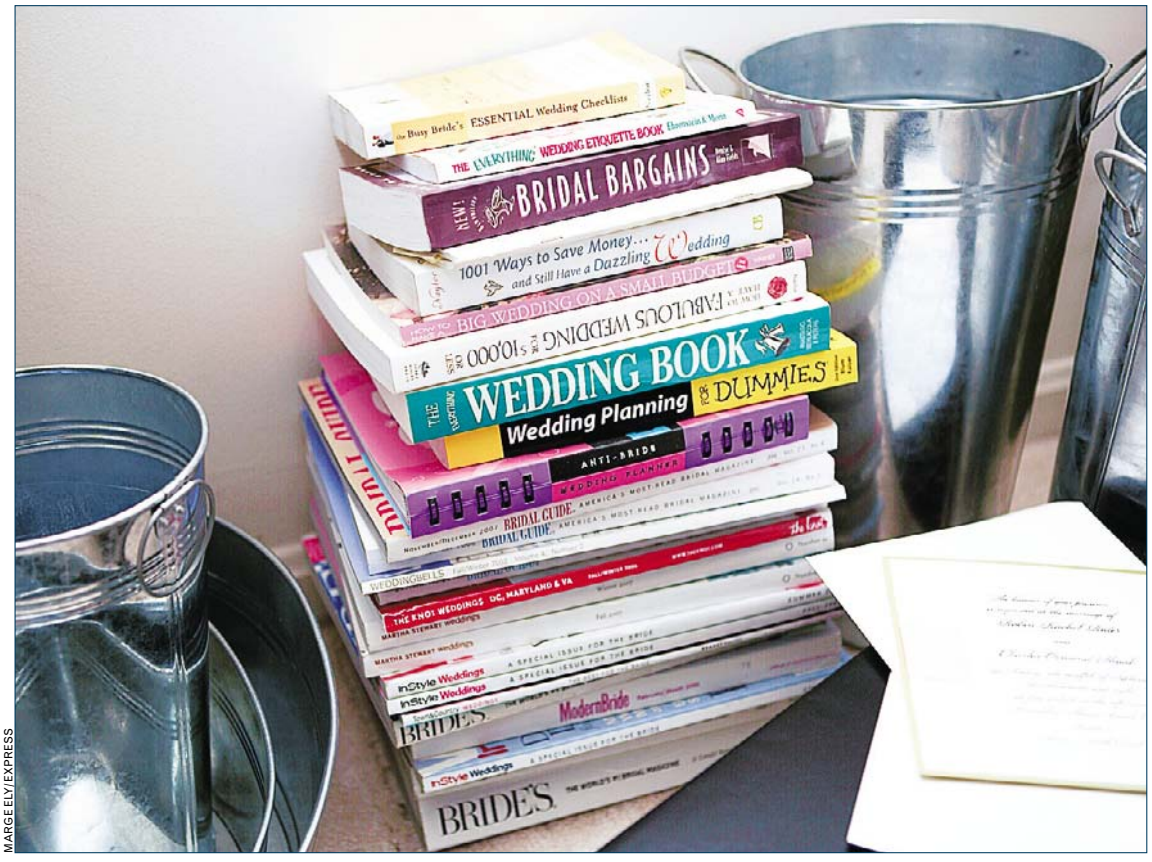
Fear No. 6 listed in "Your First Home": "I should wait to buy a home until I get married."

Jenks says there's no advantage to waiting. While some people will rationalize they could buy a better home with two incomes or worry what a future spouse might think of their crumbling fixer-upper, buyers start to build equity earlier and gain the financial benefits of ownership.

The NAR reports that 38 percent of first-time home-buyers in the U.S. last year were single.

"We have seen young professionals buying their homes before they find the person they want to marry," Jenks says.

Throughout "Your First Home," the authors sprinkle in stories of what their first home meant to them. It's a graphical how-to book and is easy to thumb through. The book crams a lot of wisdom onto each page with catchy lists such as "Eight Steps to Buying Your First Home" and "8 Questions to Ask Your Agent." It's almost like when single girls draft that pro-con list of the qualities of the man they want to marry.



MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

HONEY-I-DO LIST: Charlie Shyab and Robin Rider are busy planning their fall wedding from their new Mount Airy, Md., home.

"We wanted this to read like a romance novel, not a technical journal, and highlight the romance that's engaged in everyone buying their first home," Jenks says.

"I think people are surprised at how incredibly good it feels to walk across the threshold of a place you own. There's some psychological satisfaction, the idea of having your own castle. It's an emotional good feeling that's hard to predict."

In the beginning, couples might feel overwhelmed by the mortgage payment and taxes, but Jenks says the real satisfaction comes when couples seek buy their second home. "Whether you want to relocate or move up, you go, 'Oh, my god, that first one was a good idea,'" he says. "You have good credit and equity to bring to your next home."

And maybe a baby for that extra bedroom. JOSIE ROBERTS

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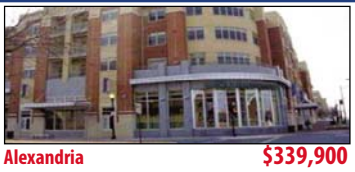
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Freddie Wofford, 240-472-4305

The Keys to Her Castle

Women who buy real estate score more than equity, says a new book

House hunting and dating have a lot in common. Both involve long lists of must-haves — three bedrooms, stable family, walk-in closet, higher education. But just when you think you've found "the one," there's always a compromise. That corner home with the immaculate lawn? Termites. The new guy in accounting? Two kids.

> "Home-buying should be seen as an investment in ourselves."
>
> **JENNIFER MUSSELMAN**, AUTHOR

But in real estate, like love, the unexpected doesn't have to be a deal-breaker, as Jennifer Musselman says in "Own It! The Ups and Downs of Homebuying for Women Who Go It Alone" ($11, Seal Press), due out on June 1.

Imperfections add character, right? And many gals love fixer-uppers, really.

To that end, "Own It" almost reads like a dating manual, with chapters titled "Growing Out Your Roots," "Dirty Little Costs of Home-Buying" and "Are Your Signs Compatible?" But Musselman's main message is empowerment: Twenty percent of home-buyers last year were single women, according to the National Association of Realtors — which means no waiting for McDreamy to show up before you make that down payment.

ISTOCK PHOTO

A CRATE GIRL: A new book suggests that women get moving on home-ownership.

The book reads like it's written by a friend giving advice, not a real estate agent. Why?

I am not an expert in home buying, I am not a financial expert — I am an expert in being the girl next door. My books have come from first-hand experience and going through the failures in order to succeed. It's been my journey, and maybe someone can learn from it.

So, why do you think women are reluctant to buy real estate by themselves?

It's two-fold. There's the psychological part of it, the fear of doing this by myself. And there's the financial side of it, which just feels overwhelming. You have these women who say, "I'm an independent woman; I'm already relatively successful in my career. If I buy a home on my own, will men still see me as someone they want to partner with?" In the whole Cinderella fairy tale of women wanting to be saved, I was afraid that might be a turn-off to a man, because I do want to have a family. We feel that decreases our dating pool.

What was the hardest part of buying your condo?

The whole house-buying process: What is an escrow? Signing my name to contracts. Asking, "Can I afford a mortgage on my own?" But what seemed like an enormous burden at the time, in retrospect, is freedom. Like changing a car tire, until you've done it once, it's overwhelming.

How have men reacted to your owning your own place?

It actually has helped weed men out. It empowered me to not just settle. Any man who is afraid of my happiness, success in life and accomplishments, I see that right away. I'm not wasting my time with men who, in a month, I would have found out are not a good fit.

Has making that mortgage payment felt like a financial burden?

For the most part, it's made me smarter about how I spend my money. I have to budget more, but I'm not scraping by in the way I feared I would. I'm not splitting a rent payment with friends anymore, but I still take the same amount of trips, I still go out to dinner with my girlfriends. I just prioritize more.

Ever felt any buyer's remorse?

Life circumstances will always change, but buying a home will not keep you from those things you want. From the outset, it looks very daunting and like too much of a commitment, but it empowers you because it's an investment in your life.

What do you think is the biggest adjustment for new homeowners?

When you're renting, if your toilet overflows or your dishwasher isn't working, your landlord is supposed to come out and fix it. Now it's not just one-stop calling. One of the things I say in my book is get an "A team" and a "B team" — repair people you automatically call, so when a problem does arise, you aren't scrambling to find someone. Talk to your friends and neighbors about plumbers and electricians they use and like. It's kind of like finding a hairdresser. Word of mouth works best.

What do you hope women take away from reading this book?

I really wanted to encourage and empower women of all ages to take charge of their emotional and financial happiness. Men can be part of our support system, but they shouldn't be our whole means to survival or happiness in life. Home-buying should be seen as an investment in ourselves and our futures. A lot of times, I think, women, as smart as we are in business, put ourselves second in our personal life. JOSIE ROBERTS

PETER COSGROVE/AP

Prospective buyer Marcia Coleman takes a last look at the house she just viewed during a recent foreclosure tour in Orlando, Fla. The tours give buyers a chance to see several low-priced properties at once.

Hop on the Buying Bus

Foreclosure tours show bank-owned properties priced at very low prices

A new form of sightseeing is catching on in the Washington suburbs, offering investment advice, free cookies and some eye-opening discoveries among the empty ramblers and forsaken townhouses of the region.

They are known as foreclosure tours or home buyer tours. One that originated recently at a Northern Virginia Long & Foster office was labeled "The Centreville Gateway Foreclosure Tour of Homes." More than 30 "tourists" squeezed onto a green passenger bus for a three-hour spin through parts of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. Some said they were looking for their first home, others were looking for a good investment, and some were just looking.

"I figure it's probably a good time to get into the housing market," said Anita Walter, a Centreville resident who saw an ad for the tour in a community newspaper. "I'm curious to see what's out there, but I want a home that will be my home.

"I'm not trying to turn around and make a quick buck."

For homeowners and investors worried about the state of the housing market, the tours and their growing popularity are a sign that falling housing prices are attracting an increasing number of potential buyers — including those willing to travel in packs. Long & Foster offices have staged similar tours in Manassas, Gainesville, Alexandria and Mount Airy. Tours are planned in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland.

"The general public doesn't know how to find foreclosed properties," said Pat Bogenn, a Long & Foster real estate agent. "There are deals out there, but there are also pitfalls.

"With bank-owned properties, most people don't know that they're buying 'as-is,'" she said. Potential buyers might need to have utilities reconnected just to find out whether pipes are broken or whether the septic system works, Bogenn said.

The main draw of the tours is that they are a kind of rolling foreclosure seminar, counseling participants in everything from financing to property inspection to legal concerns.

"The benefit of this is that everyone is here at one time," said Debbie Jeffries, a Centreville resident who was hunting for something with enough garage space for her mint-condition 1985 Lincoln Town Car. "I want rock-bottom prices."

There was a home inspector on board to point out maintenance concerns and estimate repair costs, as well as two lenders and a real estate attorney. All of the homes on the tour were vacant and bank-owned, which eased some of the ambivalence participants felt about taking over a property its previous occupants might not have parted with willingly.

"It's unfortunate that foreclosures have happened, but they can't be reversed," said Alex Bogenn, a real estate agent and Pat Bogenn's husband. "By filling the empty houses, we're ensuring the integrity of the neighborhood, and it's bringing money back into our economy."

CONTINUED ON E12

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HomeBuyer'sGuide

JAHI CHIKWENDIU/TWP

Lenders, real estate agents and home inspectors lead a tour through D.C. suburbs.

Buying Bus

CONTINUED FROM E11

Kellian McIlwrath, a loan officer from Wells Fargo-affiliated Prosperity Mortgage, told tour participants it was the first time in memory that property shoppers could reap the benefits of both low prices and low interest rates.

"As a buyer, you can still get in with zero money out of your pocket," she said, adding that banks are so eager to sell foreclosed properties that they are offering cash back to provide borrowers with enough for a down payment and closing costs.

"It's a good way for first-time home buyers to get into the market," she said.

Connie and Patrick Pittman, browsing for their first home, were listening carefully. They are renting an apartment in Alexandria but want a house before starting a family. They were looking for something in the $300,000 to $400,000 range as close as possible to their jobs in Arlington County.

"I'm from South Texas, so I'm used to big spaces," Connie Pittman said. "A $300,000 home there is completely different."

As the tour illustrated, that amount of money will buy a lot more in Northern Virginia now than a year ago. One stop on the tour was a massive townhouse in Centreville that sold for $519,000 in February 2007 and is now listed at $399,000. Then there was a hearty brick rambler on a quiet Manassas Park street with a huge yard, hardwood floors and a finished basement. Asking price: $284,000.

"This has obviously been kept up by somebody who cared for it," Patrick Pittman said, revealing a tinge of foreclosure-shopper's guilt.

"I'm amazed that this hasn't been sold," Denise Kempton, a real estate agent, told them. "For a first-time home buyer, you can't beat the prices in Prince William."

Jeffries found the boat-storage area ample enough for her Town Car, but she wasn't looking for a longer commute. "You pick this up and move it to Centreville, and I'll take it," she said.

Manassas area properties were the last stops. By then, the tour participants had thinned out. Several said they weren't interested in seeing Prince William houses, even though prices were significantly lower. They cited the extra commute, school quality and political tensions over the county's policies toward illegal immigration.

"Most people aren't going for price," Bogenn said. "They gauge by commute time."

NICK MIROFF (THE WASHINGTON POST)

JAMES A. PARCELL/TWP

Francisco and Grace Solaris stand in front of their $583,675 Arlington fixer-upper.

Try, Then Try Again

How one couple finally landed their dream home in the tough D.C. market

It took three bids, two agents and nine crystal doorknobs for Francisco and Grace Solaris to find their first home.

In late 2007, the Solarises stepped into the market after seeing three houses in their neighborhood for sale. Making their search more complicated was Grace Solaris' affinity for the architectural details of homes from the 1920s and 1930s.

They soon bid on two properties. They backed out of the first after a home inspection uncovered significant problems. They were outbid on a house in Chevy Chase.

Early this year, the Solarises relaunched their search. The couple started by calling Kimberly Cestari, the agent for the Chevy Chase home. They told Cestari that they were interested in Arlington, Northwest Washington and Capitol Hill. Their price range, $750,000 or less, made finding a single-family or semi-detached house in Northwest difficult.

Cestari decided for their first house-hunting trip that they would focus on six houses in Arlington. One of the houses was a $600,000 Colonial. The Solarises were impressed with the garage, high ceilings and crystal doorknobs. It was a fixer-upper, but it was what they were looking for.

After two weeks on the market, the seller lowered the asking price to $569,000. The Solarises decided to pounce. But the price reduction attracted another potential buyer, so Cestari encouraged the couple to add an escalation clause to their offer of $550,000 in case the other bid was competitive.

That Monday, the Solarises learned they had won the house for $583,675. They closed the deal three weeks later, in early March. "I feel very confident that this is a good investment for us and that we'll be happy in this house," Grace Solaris said.

RENAE MERLE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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SPECTRUM

A Truly Open House

Homeowners are knocking down walls to get more modern interiors

Homes of yesteryear may possess charm that new construction can't match, but the rooms can be a bit small for plasma screens. Often, master baths are tiny, living rooms aren't so great, and galley kitchens seem built for galley slaves.

While some of these houses get plowed under, other moderate-size homes are finding new life as owners reconfigure spaces by knocking down the interior walls. It's not cheap or easy, but the results can be spectacular.

Opening the floor plan is generally done in public areas of the house, meaning the living room, dining room and kitchen. Although open floor plans are associated with modern design schemes, the concept has been around for a lot longer, says Hugh Newell Jacobsen, a D.C. architect and well-known practitioner of modern design. "It originated in Japan around the 15th century and was brought west through the Bauhaus school in Germany," he said. Bauhaus flourished in the early 1900s.

A century later, open plans may be more popular than ever. In a survey about design trends conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 58 of 60 designers interviewed said floor plans that incorporate the dining area into the great room will become more prevalent in the average home.

Lisa de Lima and Steve Geest wanted a more comfortable home, so in 1999 the couple made an offer on a ranch house in Gaithersburg. The young couple, who work for an organic food company, lived in the house for five years before exploring a major renovation. Through a referral, they met with Taylor Matthews, a designer with Landis Construction in the District. "They said they wanted an updated kitchen that wouldn't be so closed off from the living room," Matthews said.

The front entrance was in the middle of the house and opened directly to the living room. "Because of how the space was designed, the furniture placement forced you to look at the front door," Matthews said. The original owners had enclosed a carport to expand the living space, but it was 18 inches lower than the rest of the house and unheated. The homeowners and the designer both saw the sunporch, which was being used for storage, as an opportunity to open things up and move the front door.

Matthews and the couple worked on plans for months while trying to keep material selections eco-friendly and costs under control. A fireplace and some skylights were sacrificed to stay on budget.

Reconfiguring meant building up the floor of the sunporch to the same level as the rest of the house and removing the wall. The front door was slid down the front facade, and Matthews designed a foyer with seating and shelving to separate it from the main living area.

For de Lima, the architectural changes also changed how the family interacts. "Being able to cook while talking to somebody else helps with the social aspect. In the old space, you felt like you were separated," she said.

The social aspect was also the driving force behind the walls' coming down at the Toppenbergs' residence in Chevy Chase. Erin and Erik Toppenberg bought the house in 2005 after moving out of Manhattan. Erik, an executive with XM Satellite Radio, was charmed by suburban living. "We loved the village and the exterior of the house, but we knew the interior needed an update," he said.

The family, with two children, were referred to interior designer Patricia Bevacqua. "The house as it was just didn't live the way a young, energetic family would like," she said. Bevacqua sought architectural advice from Jeff Broadhurst of Broadhurst Architects in Rockville.

"The discussions were centered on being able to converse with other people while somebody was in the kitchen," Broadhurst said. A wall separated the kitchen from a dining room, while the main living area was stuck on the back of the house. "It was very evident that the solid wall needed to be opened up," he said. The design team decided to flip the dining room and the living area to use the space more efficiently.

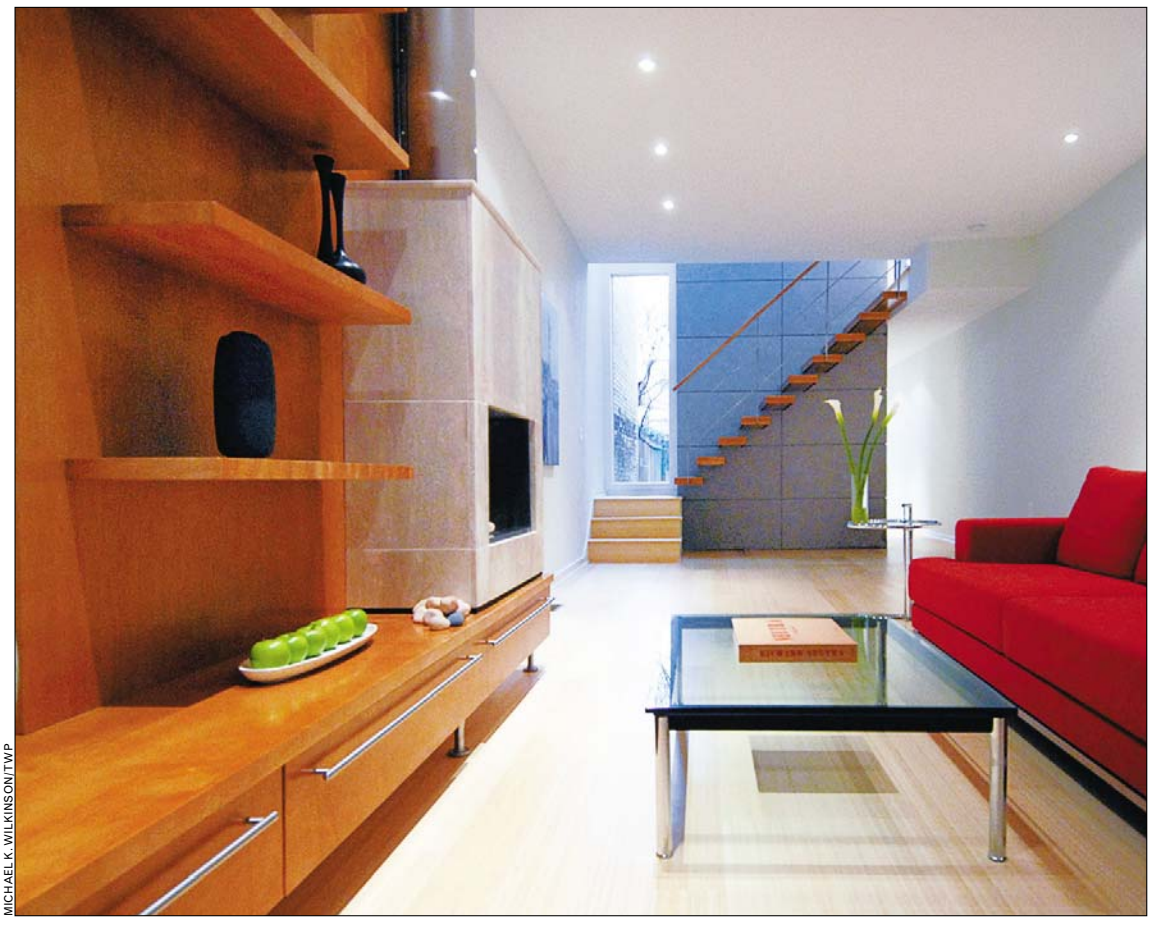
The design phase took five months, and construction lasted another six. Erin Toppenberg and the children stayed with family members in Georgia while Erik Toppenberg rode out the upheaval in the basement. The flow of the space was modernized to fit the family's needs. "I can sit at the kitchen counter, watch my wife cook and see my daughters playing in the other room. It gives me a warm feeling," Erik Toppenberg said.

Ruth and Steve Kinsley bought a mostly gutted rowhouse on Capitol Hill in 1971 for $24,000. They did some work to make the space livable, but neither was happy. "There were things that we both hated about the house," Ruth Kinsley said. "Steve hated the fireplace, and I hated the room where the furnace, washer and dryer were located."

The couple raised a child and had careers while living in the 1898 home, which is 15 feet wide. A friend of theirs was renovating her own house in 2005 and introduced them to Georgette Goldman, principal of D.C. architectural firm 3DG.

"They came to us with several goals, including a new master suite and a kitchen," Goldman said. She brought in Greg Horgan to serve as the project architect; he saw a number of problems with the downstairs layout. "We wanted to get light into the space. It was a narrow rowhouse with the stairs, a fireplace that created this mass protruding into the living room and an existing [heating and air-conditioning] duct bumping out," Horgan said.

Changes involved all three levels in the house, including the dirt-floored basement crawl space. "We created a small cellar, which gave



MICHAEL K. WILKINSON/TWP

3DG LLC

THE CASE FOR MORE SPACE: Ruth and Steve Kinsley lived in a 15-foot-wide 19th-century townhouse for decades but never loved it. To get the light-filled spaces they craved, they had to hire pros to make big changes, from digging out the basement to moving a staircase.

the homeowners room for storage and allowed us to move the stairs and fireplace," Goldman said.

The basement had to be dug out. It was then underpinned, and a concrete floor was poured. The heating and air-conditioning equipment were moved downstairs as the designers began what would be the most difficult part of the project — moving the stairs from the side wall to the back wall.

"I was opposed to it at first," Steve Kinsley said. "It wasn't what I had envisioned, nor had I considered it, but I guess that's why you should hire an architect."

The designers struggled with different iterations of a floating staircase to make the landings and angles of descent come out right. A bedroom upstairs was eliminated to make room for the new steps. "We went from a three-bedroom, 1 ½-bath house to a two-bedroom, 2 ½-bath house," Ruth Kinsley said.

By reconfiguring the downstairs powder room, moving the furnace and pivoting the stairs, a path to the kitchen was created. A dining area that used to be boxed in by the stairs now floats next to the living room. Carving away part of the ceiling to allow for the new staircase increases the feeling of openness.

The homeowners tapped funds from a condo sale to pay for the renovation and had a figure in mind for what they wanted to spend. "We gave the architects a number, but it went over," Ruth Kinsley said.

The Kinsleys stayed in a friend's apartment during the renovation, which lasted a year. It was worth it. "I love my new kitchen," Ruth Kinsley said. "It's easy having people over, and it's nice to have a husband that doesn't hate the house."

SCOTT SOWERS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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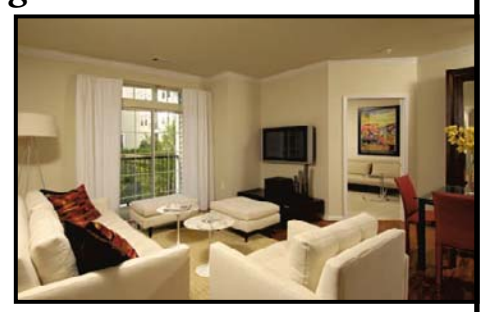

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